

1968/9

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FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH  
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FILE No. **NE Q 1/1** (57 to 114)  
(Part B.)

TITLE: *Iraq - Reports on internal situation.*

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1968/9



CYPHER/CAT A

FROM ROUTINE BAGHDAD

TEL NO. 478

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57

TO FOREIGN AND CWEALTH OFFICE

20 MAY

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ADDSO TO FCO TEL NO 478 OF 20 MAY REPTD FOR INFMN TO  
TEHRAN TEL AVIV AND WASHINGTON.

RECEIVED IN REGISTRY No. 10 21 MAY 1969 NEQ 1/1
--

IRAQ INTERNAL

AL-THAWRA (19MAY) IN AN EDITORIAL STATES  
THAT THE REVOLUTION HAD DEALT SEVERE BLOWS TO IMPER-  
IALIST INTERESTS AND DEADLY BLOWS TO LOCAL REACTION AND  
THE ESPIONAGE NETWORKS OF AMERICA, ISRAEL, BRITAIN  
AND IRAN.

2. THIS IS THE FIRST REFERENCE FOR SOME MONTHS TO BRITAIN  
IN THE ESPIONAGE CONTEXT AND IS NO DOUBT THE BASIS FOR THE  
REPORT BY THE BBC IN THE WORLD SERVICE NEWS BROADCAST  
AT 2000 GMT ON 19 MAY THAT THERE HAD BEEN FRESH ARRESTS  
FOR ESPIONAGE IN IRAQ IN WHICH BRITAIN WAS ALLEGEDLY  
IMPLICATED. (THERE WERE REPORTS OF ARRESTS DURING THE NIGHT OF  
14/15 MAY).

3. THIS THEME HAS NOT BEEN FOLLOWED UP IN THE PRESS TO-DAY  
(20 MAY).

FCOPASS TEHRAN TEL AVIV AND WASHINGTON.

MR. EVANS

[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

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58

ROUTINE BAGHDAD

TO FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

TELE NO 487

22 MAY 1969

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ADDRESSED TO F C O TELNO 487 OF 22 MAY R F I TEHRAN TEL AVIV  
WASHINGTON BEIRUT CAIRO AND AMMAN.

MY TELNO. 478 : IRAQ INTERNAL.

RECEIVED IN REGISTRY NO. TC 27 MAY 1969 NEQ 1/1
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THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER OF 21 MAY REPORTS A DECISION OF THE  
REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND COUNCIL TO IMPOUND THE PROPERTY OF TWENTY  
FIVE PERSONS. THESE WERE PRESUMABLY AMONG THOSE ARRESTED ON 14/15  
MAY BUT THERE HAVE, IT SEEMS, BEEN ARRESTS SINCE THEN.

2. THIS NUMBER INCLUDES LEADING PERSONALITIES IN IRAQ NOS. 148, 213  
126, 79, 166, 209 AND 74. NOT LESS THAN SIX ARE EX-MINISTERS  
MOSTLY UNDER THE QUOTE ARIF REGIME UNQUOTE= ONE (NO. 166)  
HELD OFFICE UNDER THE 1963 BA'ATHIST REGIME BUT WAS  
A BACKRIDER. AMONG THIS NUMBER IS THE FORMER BANJATHI TURNED  
NASSERIST, RIKABI.

3. WE STILL HAVE NO EVIDENCE OF A PLOT, BUT IT IS ASSUMED THAT  
THOSE ARRESTED HAD BEEN UNDER SUPERVISION AND THE AUTHORITIES  
MAY HAVE STRUCK IN ANTICIPATION. THIS APPEARS TO INDICATE AN  
ATTEMPT BY THE REGIME TO NEUTRALIZE THE RIGHT WING OPPOSITION  
WHETHER OR NOT THEY WILL SUCCEED IN COMING TO TERMS WITH THE LEFT,

/LEFT, IN

See by  
P.H.  
See  
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-2-

IN PARTICULAR THE COMMUNISTS, REMAINS TO BE SEEN. THERE [GP OMITTED 2ARE]  
SOME INDICATIONS THAT THE ATTEMPTS WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE SINCE  
THE REGIME CAME TO POWER ARE SUCCEEDING.

F C O PASS TEHRAN TEL AVIV WASHINGTON BEIRUT CAIRO AND AMMAN.

MR. EVANS

[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

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Reference... REGISTRY No. 10  
- 2 JUN 1969

W. 58

~~Mr Agland~~

(Mr TAPP O.R.)

NEQ 1/1

303

I have attached the  
Personalities mentioned in Bosford  
Telegram 487 (attached)

All concerned appear to be anti-  
Communist and some vaguely "Pro-  
Western". Although not members of  
the British party they might be of  
use to Gordon Tabiti should he  
attempt to form an administration of  
his own.

This does indicate that the "LEFTISTS"  
within the Regime are continuing to  
dictate party policy.

PMH/Hackell

27/5.

And



And some may have Kurdish  
connections. This does not bode  
well for our relations with  
the Iraq Government which continues  
to take extreme measures &  
seems to move gradually further  
to the Left.

AAAscland  
2/5

M. Hückel

~~PM~~ 2/6

Reg. Pa. attached to

Tel 487 922/5



(59)

# Iraq set for renewed spy trials

From DAVID HIRST : Beirut, May 21

The Iraqi people, who have not taken kindly to the iron discipline of their ruling Ba'athists, are about to have a tougher time than ever.

In a fresh wave of arrests, officially disclosed yesterday, a wide-ranging assortment of leading Iraqis have joined Dr Bazzaz in prison or forced residence—and like him they are apparently liable to face trial not merely for conspiring against the regime but for spying for Israel and all the stock villainies in the Ba'athist book.

This move—fresh evidence of a state of advanced paranoia—comes at a time when the Iraqi quarrel with Persia over navigation rights in the Shatt al Arab estuary is taking an increasingly ugly form and, even more serious, the irrepressible Kurds of North Iraq are on the war-path again.

The names of those arrested have not been announced but President Bakr—or rather "Struggler-President" Bakr as he is officially described—disclosed last night that they include former Ministers of the era of ex-President Aref and other political figures of long standing. However, under a decree issued yesterday the property of 25 leading Iraqis was impounded and it is presumably some or most of these who have been arrested. They range from staunch Right-wingers like General Rashid Muslih to near-Communist

The list is striking evidence of the variety of the Ba'athists' enemies. Almost all political groupings of the Left, not to mention the Right, are now in outright opposition, including the pro-Moscow Communists who, in line with their brethren in Syria and Egypt, were ready to go quite a long way in making it up with their old Ba'athist enemies.

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27 MAY 1969
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Iraq Internal  
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Cutting dated ..... 22 MAY 1969 ..... 19

## Iraqi "coup" plot uncovered

By Our Middle East  
Correspondent

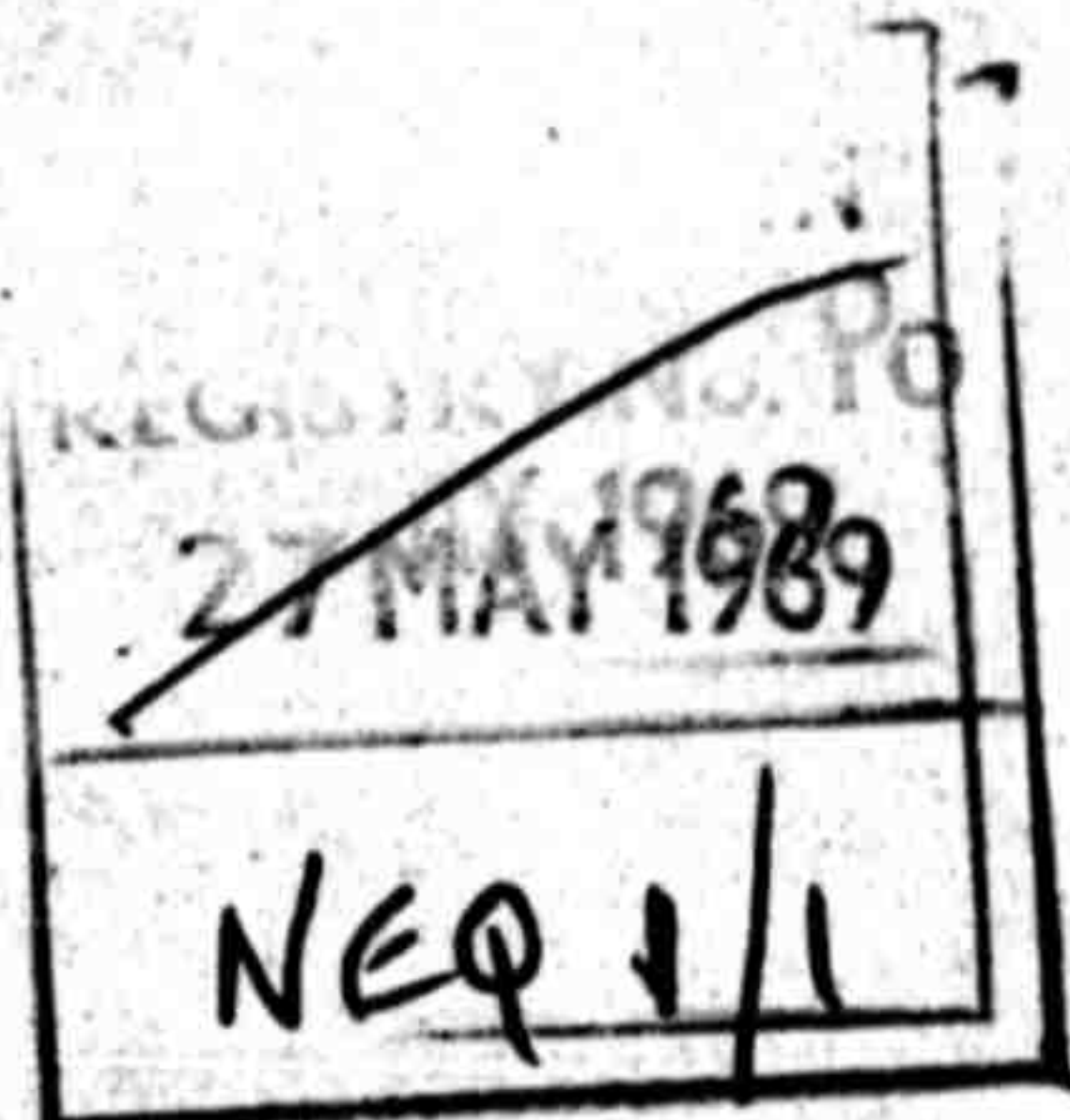
BEIRUT, May 21.

THE Iraqi authorities say that they have uncovered a major plot to overthrow the Baathist regime which came to power last July.

Leaders of the alleged conspiracy were identified as the Former Ministers in the regime of ex-President Abdel Rahman Aref, who was overthrown in the July coup and who now resides in exile in Turkey.

Little information has come out about persons arrested. But last night the Iraqi Government decree seized movable and immovable property of 25 prominent Iraqis including several of Aref's former Ministers. These included ex-Foreign Minister Ismail Khairalah, ex-Finance Minister, Shukry Saleh Zaki, ex-Interior Minister Rashid Musleh, ex-Agrarian Reform Minister Fuad Rikabi.

Also included was Siddik Shanshal, leader of the Independence Party who was briefly arrested and his property impounded after Baathists came to power last year.





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AmfS(R)  
D.R.

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THE OBSERVER

25 MAY 1969

Cutting dated ..... 19

## Iraq under fire at home and abroad

from our Correspondent

BEIRUT, 24 May

THE GOVERNMENT of Iraq was defending itself on all sides this week, attacked by the Kurds in the north, confronted by the Iranians in the south, and fighting internal conspiracies in Baghdad itself.

The wave of arrests unleashed by President Ahmed Hassan el Bakr was a clear sign that the Baath Party regime felt itself more threatened than it has ever been since it came to power in a *coup d'état* last July.

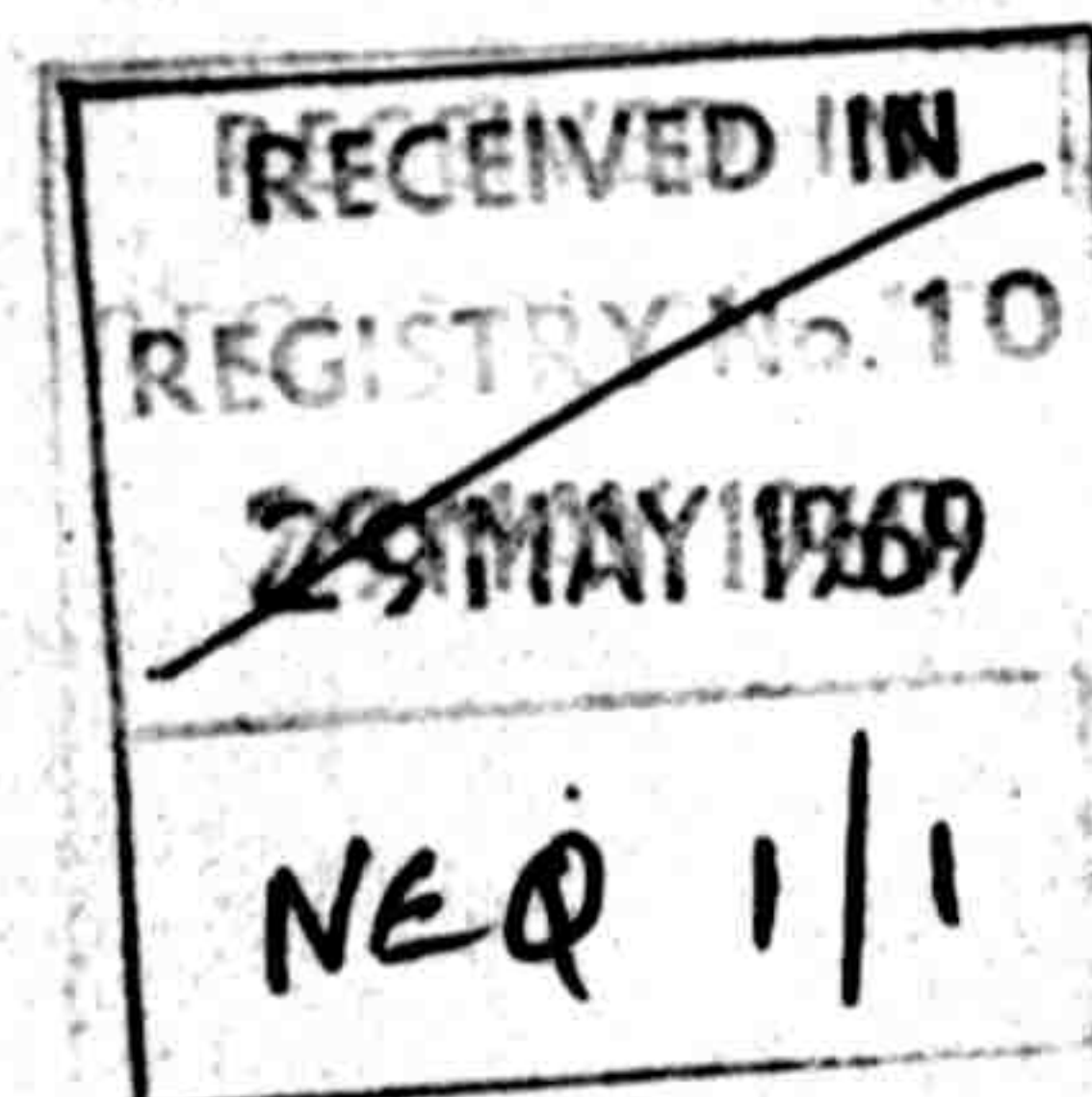
The espionage ring uncovered this week was said to be working for Britain, the United States, Israel and Iran, and was also allegedly plotting to bring down the regime. It included five former Cabinet Ministers, the former Mayor of Baghdad, several politicians and Major-General Rashid Musleh, who made Iraq tremble when he was military governor under ex-President Abdel Rahman Aref.

Only 25 persons were publicly revealed to have been arrested. But reports filtering out of Baghdad put the number at about 100 so far. Among them were journalists, professors, students and businessmen, including at least two who were dragged off a plane about to leave for Beirut. The Government promised a new series of trials by the revolutionary court, which has sent 38 men to the executioner so far this year on spying charges.

The arrests were a familiar way of removing the spotlight from the increasingly serious situation in the north. The 66-year-old Kurdish leader, Mullah Mustafa Barzani, was on the war path again, and the Kurds sent out word that he had vowed to fight until Bakr's regime collapsed. Kurdish supporters on their way to Europe to start an 'information campaign' said this week that Barzani had launched a co-ordinated offensive against seven Iraqi garrisons along a 180-mile arc below the Kurdish-held mountains.

At the moment, Barzani is enjoying full-hearted support from Iran, which is eager to bring more pressure to bear on Iraq in the Shatt el Arab dispute. Although the Kurds will not admit it, they are getting modern anti-aircraft guns and other weapons from Iran to fight off the Iraqi Air Force's daily raids.

The scale of the fighting still has not warranted the withdrawal of Iraqi units from Jordan, but this possibility was serious enough to send the Jordanian Prime Minister, Mr Abdel Moneim Rifai, off to Baghdad for a quick visit.



leg & Pa.

Iraq

Internal

PRIMA

28/5



A. THE ARAB WORLD AND ISRAELBaghdad 'Al-Jumhuriyah' on Espionage in IraqBaghdad home service in Arabic 05.30 GMT 22.5.69

Text of item from press review:

Under the title: "The masses are asked to sharpen their vigilance toward the counter-revolutionary elements' movements", the newspaper 'Al-Jumhuriyah' says that new spy rings have been exposed which include a number of those who until recently boasted of being nationalists, patriots and revolutionaries, and of supporting the aims of the glorious 14th July revolution. This exposure has confirmed that the fighter President Bakr's course has been sound since the day he promised to clear Iraq of espionage and treason. The exposure also verifies that the firm revolutionary Government's policy of punishing these criminals harshly but justly is correct.

The paper says the newly discovered spy ring includes former Ministers and Directors General who had important positions in numerous State departments. Their astonishing confessions prove that this spy ring will not be the last. The unholy alliance of world imperialism, its agents in Iran, the Barzani gangs Zionism, reaction and counter-revolutionary remnants will continue their feverish activity. The alliance undoubtedly realises that the progressive revolutionary Government is serious in its determination to pursue it and to liquidate its traces in the Arab countries.

'Al-Jumhuriyah' says in conclusion that the revolution [words indistinct] millions of the working popular forces; it relies on them and supports them through its continuing action. The revolutionary Government is very confident that, through the full support of the people, it will eliminate all strongholds of espionage and treason. The unmasking of some of those who claim to be nationalists and patriots, but who have slipped into espionage, will increase the people's vigilance. They will now more easily recognise the enemies of the revolution and the agents of the spy rings which operate in the interest of imperialism, Zionism, and reaction - in whatever guise they appear.

Damascus Radio on US Support for IsraelDamascus home service in Arabic 11.15 GMT 21.5.69

Excerpts from commentary:

There is talk again about US-Israeli relations, particularly the US position on the Middle East question, the current four-Power talks in New York on the so-called political solution and the US attitude at these talks. It has been rumoured that US and Zionist leaders disagree over the provisions of the proposed settlement...

Despite extensive efforts behind these campaigns, which have initially influenced a number of people, nobody in our Arab homeland can now believe that the USA, under any Administration, could possibly abandon its completely biased pre-Zionist attitude. Consequently, nobody now believes that US policy could get close to or find a common language with the Arab viewpoint...

On the Israeli side, it has been repeatedly stressed that the US position remains unchanged. Statements to this effect have been made by various Zionist officials after every meeting or talk between them and their US counterparts. On the US side, US policy to the Zionists has been fixed since 1948... Under both the Johnson and Nixon Administrations, the US Government put forward its viewpoint, which is completely identical to that of Israel. The US Government has sponsored



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29 MAY 1969  
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~~Reg Near Eastern~~  
~~Dep~~  
in Hinchcliffe

27/5  
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KUWAIT, MAY 25 REUTER-- THE KUWAITI NEWSPAPER AL-RAI AL-AAAM REPORTED TODAY THAT FORMER IRAQI PRIME-MINISTER ABDEL RAHMAN AL-BAZZAZ HAS DIED IN A BAGHDAD PRISON.

THE NEWSPAPER, QUOTING RELIABLE SOURCES FOR ITS INFORMATION, SAID HE HAD DIED MYSTERIOUSLY BUT GAVE NO OTHER DETAILS.

DR. BAZZAZ, 56, PRIME MINISTER FROM SEPTEMBER 1965 TO AUGUST 1966, WAS ACCUSED LAST DECEMBER OF SPYING AGAINST THE STATE.

HE AND THE FORMER DEFENCE MINISTER, RETIRED MAJOR GENERAL ABDEL-AZIZ AL-OGAILY, WERE CHARGED WITH WORKING FOR ISRAELI-AMERICAN SPYING NETWORKS AND FACED POSSIBLE DEATH SENTENCES.

DR. BAZZAZ, A FORMER UNIVERSITY LECTURER, HELD VARIOUS MINISTERIAL, DIPLOMATIC, JUDICIAL AND EDUCATIONAL POSTS BEFORE BECOMING THE ONLY CIVILIAN PRIME MINISTER SINCE THE JULY 1958 REVOLUTION WHICH TOPPLED THE IRAQI MONARCHY.

REUTER-DR/BC

Reg & R4.

Iraq

Internal

2/5



Mr. Hinchcliff

## Bazzaz's death report denied

Beirut, May 27.—Mr. Shafik al-Kamali, Iraq's visiting Minister of Youth Affairs, today denied press reports that Dr. Abdul Rahman al-Bazzaz, the former Iraq Prime Minister, now under detention in Baghdad, had died.

The Kuwait newspaper Ar-Rai Al-Amm quoted reliable sources last Sunday as saying that the former Prime Minister had died mysteriously in a Baghdad prison.  
—Reuter.

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29 MAY 1969
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British Embassy,  
BAGHDAD.

24 May, 1969.

(1/3)

Dear Hinchcliffe

--- Please refer to our telegram No. 487  
of 22 May about recent arrests for espionage  
which have taken place in Iraq. I now  
enclose a complete list of the 25 persons  
arrested with biographical details.

*Yours ever*  
*M. Jenner*  
(M. K. Jenner)

P. R. M. Hinchcliffe, Esq.,  
Near Eastern Department,  
F.C.O.

Reg & Pa.

*PMMA*

24/5.

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List of Persons whose property were attached by order  
of the Revolutionary Command Council issued on 19 May, 1969

1. Anwar Thamir Asst. D.G. of Security - May 1963  
Muhammad Latif: D.G. of Security - January 1964  
Mutasarrif of Kut - April 1964  
Mutasarrif of Basra  
Placed on Pension - July 1968
2. Ismail Rashid Shahin D.G. of Security ? 1965  
Shahin Appointed Administrative Inspector in M.O.D. September 1968
3. Rashad Daud al Ex-Iraqi Air Force Officer  
Yawir
4. Rashid Muslih Taha Leading Personalities in Iraq  
No. 148. - December 1965  
Lost position in Bazzaz's  
second cabinet
5. Madhat al Haj Leading Personalities in  
Sirri Iraq No. 213.  
Retired as Mayor of Baghdad  
on 1.8.1968
6. Said Fat'hi al Ex Army Officer.  
Siqilli Appointed Military Governor  
General for the Northern  
area - 10.6.1963  
Under Secretary at the  
Ministry of Municipal and  
Rural Affairs - 8.1.1965  
Chairman of State Establishment  
for Industry - 14.1.1966
7. Shukri Mahmud Nadim Ex Brigadier in the Army.
8. Abdul Razzaq Ex Army Officer.  
Mohammad Abdul Mutasarrif of Hilla Liwa - 25.12.1963  
Qadir Aswad
9. Faiq Abdul Rahman  
Sulaiman
10. Kadhim Hadi Doctor. A leading member  
Shubbar, Dr. of the Shia Community and  
known political activist.
11. Mohammad Siddiq Leading Personalities in  
Shanshal Iraq No. 126
12. Hashim Ali al Leading Personalities in  
Hilli Iraq No. 79.  
Later D.G. Iraqi Jute Co.  
(1965). Appointed D.G. of  
Industrial Bank on 30.6.66.
13. Yasin Mohammad Ex Army Officer in M.O.D.  
al Samarra'ie Appointed D.G. of Recruitment  
in MOD - 12.1.1965
14. Yahya Abdul Latif Merchant.  
Thinayan



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15. Haj Ali Ahmad Fuad Ex D.G. of Ports and Navigation, Basrah .  
Pensioned off July, 1968.
16. Abdul Wahhab Amin Ex Army Officer. Resigned his post after  
Salih 14 July. Relieved of post at Ministry of  
Social Affairs at his own request in 1960.  
Appointed as Acting Minister of Agriculture  
in 1960. Has no job at present.
17. Abdul Aziz Ahmad  
Husain
18. Dr. Hisham al Professor at Baghdad University. Ex D.G.  
Dabbagh at the Public Establishment for Insurance.  
Ex President of Iraqi Federation of Industries.
19. Ismail Khairallah Ex Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.  
A very competent lawyer. A Nassirist lightweight  
Ex Minister for Presidential Affairs during  
'Arif Regime.
20. Shukri Salih Zaki Leading Personalities in Iraq No. 166.  
Later lost his position as Minister of Finance  
when Naji Talib succeeded Bazzaz on 7.9.1966.
21. Ghanim al Uqaili Leading Personalities in Iraq. No. 209.  
Brother of former Chief of Staff.
22. Tariq Shafiq Ex member on the Board of Administration of  
Iraqi National Oil Company under 'Arif.
23. Dr. Hasan Thamir Ex D.G. Industrial Bank. Ex D.G. of  
Co-operative Bank. Ex President of Iraqi  
Economists' Association. Ex Minister of  
Municipal and Rural Affairs in Bazzaz's  
second Cabinet.
24. Abdul Razak al Ex D.G. Agricultural Bank on 2.11.1965.  
Hilali Re-appointed D.G. of Agricultural Bank and  
is still in this post.
25. Fuad Ahmad Mutar Leading Personalities in Iraq No. 74.  
al Rikabi



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ROUTINE BAGHDAD

TELEGRAM NO. 504

TO FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

29 MAY 1969

RECEIVED IN REGISTRY No. 10 30 MAY 1969 NEQ 111
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ADDRESSED TO FCO TELEGRAM NO. 504 OF 29 MAY RFI TO TEHRAN  
TEL AVIV WASHINGTON BEIRUT CAIRO AND AMMAN.

MY TEL NO. 487: IRAQ INTERNAL.

AL THAWRA OF 28 MAY REPORTS THAT COMPETENT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS  
HAVE ORDERED ATTACHMENT OF PROPERTY OF A FURTHER 46 PERSONS.  
PROMINENT IN THIS LIST IS ADNAN SABRI MURAD DEPUTY CHIEF OF PROTOCOL  
AT PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. NO LESS THAN SEVEN OTHERS NAMED HAVE BEEN AT  
SOMETIME CONNECTED WITH THE SECURITY SERVICES. REMAINDER, RANGING  
(SIC) FROM RETIRED ARMY OFFICERS TO SHOPKEEPERS, PEASANTS, WORKERS.  
WITH ONE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT ANY OF ACCUSED  
ARE LEFT WINGERS.

FCO PASS TO TEHRAN, TEL AVIV, WASHINGTON, BEIRUT, CAIRO AND AMMAN.

MR. EVANS.

[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

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B72 IRAQ: PROPERTY OF 25 SEIZED

(BAGHDAD RADIO) AT ITS MEETING YESTERDAY THE REVOLUTION COMMAND COUNCIL DECIDED TO SEIZE THE MOVEABLE AND IMMOVEABLE PROPERTY OF THE FOLLOWING PERSONS:

NE ANWAR TAMIR MUHAMMAD LATIF, ISMAIL RASHID SHAHIN, RASHAD DAWUD AL-JAWAR, RASHID MUSLIN TAHA, MIDHAT AL-MAJJ SIRRI, SAID FATHI AL-SIQILLI, SHUKRI MAHMUD NADIM, ABD AL-RAZZAQ MUHAMMAD ABD AL-QADIR ASWAD, SAD ABD AL-RAHMAN SULAYMAN AL-UBAYDI, KAZIM HADI SHUBBRAR, MUHAMMAD SIDDIQ SHANSHAL, HASHIM ALI AL-HILLI, YASIN MUHAMMAD AL-

SAMARRAI, QAHYA ABD AL-LATIF TUNAYYAN, AL-HAJJ ALI AHMAD FUAD, ABD AL-WAHHAB AMIN SALIH, ABD AL-AZIZ AHMAD HUSAYN, DR HISHAM AL-DABBAGH, ISMAIL KHAYRALLAH, SHUKRI SALIH ZAKI, GHANIM AL-UQAYLI, TARIQ SHAFIQ, DR HASAN TAMIR, ABD AL-RAZZAQ AL-HILALI, AND FUAD AR-RIKABI.

END BBC MON 20/5 JMA (KY) 2215



B92 SPIES WHO CONFESS WILL BE SPARED: AL-BAKR

BAGHDAD RADIO HAS BROADCAST A LIVE RELAY OF PRESIDENT BAKR'S SPEECH TO THE OPENING SESSION OF THE THIRD PEASANTS SOCIETIES CONFERENCE IN BAGHDAD. SPEAKING ABOUT THE MOST RECENTLY REPORTED SPY RING, HE SAID:

NE O +THE LEADERS OF THE ESPIONAGE RING HAVE BEEN ARRESTED. THEY MUST HAVE BEEN THE FIRST LINK IN THE NETWORK, BECAUSE THEY INCLUDE FORMER MINISTERS, DIRECTORS GENERAL AND POLITICIANS WHO CLAIMED PATRIOTISM FOR A QUARTER OF A CENTURY. THE REVOLUTION COMMAND COUNCIL HAS TAKEN UPON ITSELF TO BEHEAD THE LEADERS OF TREASON.

MF BBC MON 20/5 JL

B52 AL-BAKR 2:

+I HOPE

THAT THOSE WHOSE MOVEMENTS AND CONTACTS HAVE NOT YET BEEN DETECTED WILL IDENTIFY THEMSELVES IN ORDER TO SAVE THEMSELVES AND THE HONOUR OF THEIR FAMILIES, IF THEY STILL HAVE ANY HONOUR. IF THEY PROCLAIM THEIR ACTIVITIES, WE PROMISE THAT THEY WILL BE SPARED. HENCEFORTH, THERE WILL BE NO MERCY. WE HAVE NOT BEEN MERCIFUL TO SPIES IN THE PAST, NOR WILL WE BE MERCIFUL IN THE FUTURE.+

MF BBC MON 20/5 JL

N

B52 AL-BAKR 3: IRAN HELPING ISRAEL

SPEAKING ABOUT IRAN, AL-BAKR SAID:

+IF ISRAEL HAS BEEN PLAYING ITS ROLE OPENLY FOR A LONG TIME. THE IRANIAN RULERS HAVE REVEALED BY THEIR UNILATERAL AND INTERNATIONALLY ILLEGAL ABROGATION OF THE 1937 BORDER TREATY THEIR EXPANSIONIST INTENTIONS AND AIM TO EXERT PRESSURE ON IRAQ TO WITHDRAW ITS BRAVE TROOPS FROM THE FIRING LINES TO EAST THE MISSION OF THEIR ALLY ISRAEL. WE MUST ALERT AND WARN THE ARABS OF THE IMPENDING DANGER FROM THE EAST TO THE ARAB GULF TERRITORY AND PEOPLES.+

END BBC MON 20/5 JL (KY) 1948



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67

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
BAGHDAD.

2 June, 1969.

Dear Hinchcliffe,

66

--- Please refer to our telegram No. 504  
of 28 May. I now enclose a complete list of  
the further 46 persons whose property has  
been attached with the few biographical  
details that are available.

*M. R. Jenner*  
(M. R. Jenner)

P. R. M. Hinchcliffe, Esq.,  
Near Eastern Department,  
F.C.O.,  
London, S.W.1.

Reg

Spa

PRM  
4/6



Muhammad Shaikh Latif  
11.8.58.

To be tried before special High Military Tribunal. Data wanted for trial.

Abdul Aziz Barakat

Owner of "al Manar" newspaper. Brother of Rajab Barakat (q.v.). Before the Revolution his paper was the vehicle for all official pronouncements. It hardly ever carried any leading article. He visited England as a member of the official party of journalists in 1954. Abdul Aziz Barakat gets his money from property and from a small export and import business. He is a member of the Baladiya Council. He has sponsored applications for recognition of Basra Branch of the Journalists' Union.

30.6.61

"al Manar" newspaper of Basrah suspended.

2.7.61

Ban on publication of "al Manur" lifted and subject released from jail.

6,8.60

Exiled in Riyadh for a considerable time before the Revolution, possibly in connection with the Rashid Ali revolt in 1940. Reported to be a leading light of the Arab Vanguard Party. (Believed to be receiving money from Saudi Arabia.)

22.2.63

Subject granted licence by new government to publish his paper

Born Basra 1922. Visited U.K. for one month.

30.6.64.

Elected Vice-President of Journalists' Association

4.9.64

Works for Al Manar - journalist. Invited to visit Korea.

10.7.65

Re-elected as Vice-President of Association of Iraqi Journalists'.

22.4.67

Chief Editor of "Al-Manur". Nominated for Journalists Elections.

Adnan Sabri Murad  
30.4.59

Superintendent in Ministry of Foreign Affairs: dismissed for one year.

5.10.61

At the Protocol Department at the Sovereignty Council. To go to the U.S. for nine months for training on general administration. Brother of Amina Sabri Murad.

1968

Deputy Chief of Protocol at the Presidential Palace.

Abdul Razzaq al Ubaidi  
30.6.59

Supports NUF (Communist inspired)

Taha Yasin (Rtd. Staff  
Brigadier)

3.6.59. seizure on property lifted.

27.4.63. Put on retired list.



Khalid Ali al Dulaimi  
29.12.59

Farmer

Accused by the Supreme Military Court of taking part in the plot against Qassim's life.

22. 3.60

Sentenced to death - 15 years imprisonment.

5.12.61

Sentence reduced - pardoned and released.

8. 3.63

Property returned

Yunis Abdul Razzaq  
al Samarral

22. 7.60

Director of Police, Mosul Liwa

11.11.62

Suspended from service for two years.

9. 5.63

Pension and promotion rights restored.

20. 4.64

Appointed to post of administrative inspector at the Ministry of Interior.

Zaki Abdul Wahhab  
Abdul Razzaq

6. 8.58

Brother of Jamil and ? Mohammad.

Appointed member of Board of Directors, G.O.R.A.

7. 4.59

Appointed D.G. of Rafidain Bank.

28. 6.59

Signed petition for formation of Iraqi Indian Friendship Society.

15. 3.60

Member of Government Purchasing Board since its inception in late 1959.

18.11.58

Member of Committee set up by Minister of Economy to study imports.

13.12.59

Elected Secretary of Iraqi-Czech Friendship Society.

14. 2.61

Wife is sister of wife of Abdul Latif al Shawwaf. Educated at University of California. Assistant to Nadhim Zahawi when D.G. of Imports (1948-50). Appointment to Rafidain Bank may well have owed much to Zahaqi's and Muhammad Hadid's influence.

8.11.61

Appointed Member of the Board of Directors of Rafidain Bank.

21.10.64

Member of Board of Re-Insurance Co.

10. 8.64

Still member of Rafidain Board. Member of Committee formed to study merger of Banks of the Economic Institution.

2. 9.64

Replaced Kadhim Abdul Hamid on Board of Central Bank.

18.11.65

Submitted his resignation as D.G. of Rafidain Bank.

28. 6.66

P.M. ordered lifting of a travel ban which was enforced on subject.



Zaki Abdul Wahhab  
Abdul Razzaq  
(Cont'd)

22.1.67.

Nominated for post of Chairman of Board of Administration of the General Establishment for Insurance.

Khalid Mahmud al Rahhal  
19.4.64

Previous Director of Baghdad Security Section being transferred to a new post in the Police Department.



Kamil Abid Muhammad Ali, ex-Director of Security, Basra.

Abbud Hasal Al Karkhi, Asst. Commandant of Mobile Police

Sabih Husain al Samarrai, Asst. Comdt. of Security Police

Muhsin Taqi, Asst. Comdt. of Security Police, Mahallat  
Al Jumhuriyah, Basra.

Sabri al 'Ajil, Asst. Comdt. of Security Police, resides at  
Bab al Shaikh

Shakir Abdul Husain al Mulla Khalaf, a merchant at Basra

Ibrahim Abdul Husain al Mulla Khalaf, an official of the Grain  
Board

Thwaini Majid, a shop-keeper at Basra.

Sabti Majid Jasin, a cloth dealer and Mukhtar of Um Al  
Risas village at Basra.

Nuri Yusuf al Jasim, a private soldier, Basra

Mirza Heska'il "Aziz Haqqi", motor spares dealer at Basra

Haj Majid Muhammad Ali al Asadi, nicknamed "Dickson", a Koran  
Reader in "Husainiyat" (Shia Mosques), resides at Najaf.

Abbud Abdullah Ali al Mahshali "Faisali", a shop-keeper at  
Shatt-el-Arab, Basra.

Lafta Muslim, Um al Risas, Basra

Muhsin Ali al Yasin, employed by Hanna al Shaikh Company

Kasus Suwait, a peasant, Basra

Tumah Mehaudir, a workman, Shatt-el-Arab

Bahidh 'Ubaid, a peasant at Tannoomah

Jawad al Saiyid Muhsin, a workman at Ashar

Muhammad Husain Jum'ah

Salman Khalaf

Farhan Turki

Saiyid Hashim al Bahbahani

Husain Maturian

Hamid Abdullah al Matrud

Hatam Saihud

Sadiq Il'aibi

Ridha, a baker, father's name not known.



NEQ 1/1

Governor of Yemeni Province Republican Decree No. 36 was issued on 31st May appointing Capt. Naji Salih ar-Ruwaysan as Governor of Rada Province. (San'a in Arabic 19.30 GMT 31.5.69)

Denial of Yemen Republican-Royalist talks. Yemeni Government sources have refuted reports that the Republican and Royalist sides in Yemen have been conducting talks for the formation of a coalition Government. An official spokesman of the Yemeni Government has announced that there are no longer any supporters of the Royalists in Yemen, and that since the cessation of operations against the Republican forces the former supporters of the Royalists have supported the Republican Government in San'a and left the ranks of the deposed Imam Muhammad al-Badr. (Cairo in Arabic 16.00 GMT 31.5.69)

Fighting in South Yemen. Reports from Awlaqi indicate that the rebels in Kawr, Sa'id, Musayniah, and Yashbum have inflicted heavy losses in fierce battles with mercenaries of the secessionist National Front Government. According to reports, 45 men seriously wounded in these battles have been removed to Aden by air for treatment in hospital; those killed or slightly wounded are not included in the 45. Soldiers from Hadramawt have refused to carry out oppressive operations against the rebels or to shell houses in the rebel villages. This has led the authorities to disarm most of them and place them in Ataq military detention camps. (San'a in Arabic 17.00 GMT 1.6.69)

Iraqi Minister in Yemen The Iraqi Unity Minister Dr. Abdullah al-Khudayr arrived in Ta'izz today on a visit to the Yemeni Arab Republic. He told the Yemeni News Agency that he had a letter from the Iraqi President Bakr to the President of the Republican Council Abd ar-Rahman al-Iryani concerning the Arab situation and developments in the crisis between Iraq and Iran. (San'a in Arabic 17.00 GMT 1.6.69)

Postponement of verdict on Yahya The State Security Court has decided to postpone its verdict in the case of ex-Premier Tahir Yahya and other Ministers of the former regime accused of importing Coca Cola syrup in violation of the boycott. (Iraqi News Agency in Arabic 10.35 GMT 1.6.69)

Aflaq's departure from Baghdad Michel Aflaq, secretary-general of the Ba'th Party National Command, left Baghdad by air on 1st June. He was seen off by the Deputy Premier and Minister of the Interior Salih Mahdi Ammash, the Chief of Staff Lt-Gen. Hamdun Shihab, and the assistant secretary-general of the Ba'th Party National Command, Shibli al-Aysami. (Baghdad in Arabic 17.00 GMT 1.6.69)

Ghaydan's departure for Morocco and Algeria Brig. Sa'dun Ghaydan, member of the Revolution Command Council and Commander of the Baghdad Forces, left Baghdad this evening for Beirut on his way to Morocco and Algeria. Brig. Zaydan is carrying letters from President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr to King Hasan II and to the Algerian President Hawwari Bumadyan. He will meet officials in the two countries, to explain Iraq's view on developments in the area, especially the crisis created by Iran over the Shatt al-Arab. (Baghdad in Arabic 17.00 GMT 1.6.69)

Chief Rabbi Khudhuri's cable to Iraqi Cabinet (Text) The Cabinet has received a cable of thanks from the Chief Rabbi in Iraq, Sassun Khudhuri, expressing appreciation for the revolution's patronage of the Jewish community and its decision to end the injustice which the community suffered under the former regime. Here is the text of the cable: Our national Government's decision to patronise the Jewish community in Iraq and abolish Laws Nos. 64/1967 and 10/1968 is an honourable and praiseworthy measure. On behalf of myself and of members of the Jewish community, I wish to express our deep thanks to our honourable Government. I pray to God to bless always the actions of the 17th July 1968 revolution and grant success to the sound decisions its honourable leaders take in the good interest of all the people. (Baghdad in Arabic 11.00 GMT 31.5.69)



P.H. (68)

B32 IRAQ: NEW LAW SETS UP REVOLUTION COURT

NE  
CIRAQI NEWS AGENCY) BAGHDAD: A LAW HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE AMENDING LAW NO 7/1958 ON THE TRIAL OF PLOTTERS AGAINST STATE SECURITY AND THE REGIME. UNDER THE AMENDMENT, A COURT OF THE REVOLUTION WILL BE FORMED CONSISTING OF A PRESIDENT AND TWO MEMBERS SELECTED BY THE PREMIER FROM AMONG MILITARY AND CIVILIAN STATE EMPLOYEES.

RECEIVED IN REGISTRY No. 10 11 JUN 1969 NEQ 1/1
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THE PREMIER MAY FORM THE COURT OF THE REVOLUTION WITH MILITARY MEMBERS ONLY, IN WHICH CASE THE COURT PRESIDENT SHALL NOT BE LESS THAN A LIEUTENANT COLONEL, OR WITH BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY MEMBERS. THE COURT SHALL BE CONSTITUTED BY REPUBLICAN DECREE.

MF BBC MON 9/6 ZA 1700

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has  
internal

B32 LAW 2:

THE COURT OF THE REVOLUTION WILL CONSIDER CRIMES MENTIONED IN THIS LAW AND CRIMES AFFECTING EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL STATE SECURITY WHICH COME UNDER THE PENAL CODE. CASES WILL BE REFERRED TO THE COURT OF THE REVOLUTION BY THE PREMIER OR WHOEVER HE MAY DESIGNATE FOR THIS PURPOSE. THE NEW LAW ANNULS LAW NO 180 OF 1968 AMENDING LAW NO 7 OF 1958.

END BBC MON 8/6 ZA 1702 (KY)

MM  
10/6



P.H.

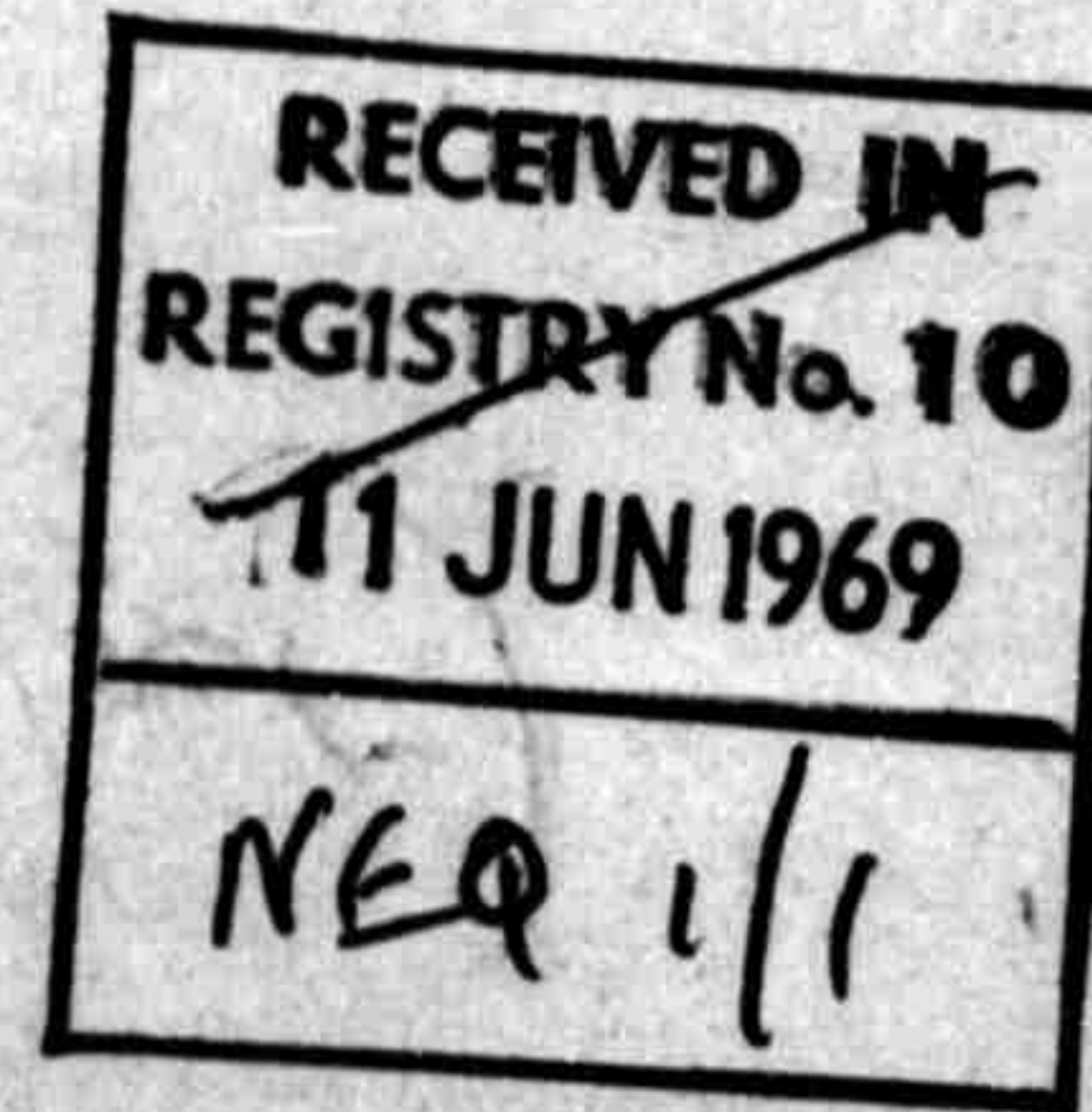
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B53 IRAQ: MINISTRY FARM MACHINERY FOR COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES

(BAGHDAD RADIO) IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE SEVENTH REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE SOCIALIST ARAB BAA'TH PARTY, THE COUNCIL OF THE REVOLUTION COMMAND HAS DECIDED THE FOLLOWING:

- NE
1. TO TRANSFER THE OWNERSHIP OF ALL THE AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT BELONGING TO THE MINISTRY OF AGRARIAN REFORM TO THE PEASANT COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES.
  2. TO TRANSFER THE OWNERSHIP OF ALL ARTESIAN WELLS AND THE MACHINES INSTALLED ON THESE WELLS TO THE PEASANT SOCIETIES.

MF BBC MON 9/6 JM



B53 FARM 2: DEBTS WAIVED

- REG  
Int  
PUM  
10/6
3. TO EXEMPT PEASANTS FROM THE FURTHER REPAYMENT OF THE LOANS GIVEN TO THEM IN KIND AND MONEY BY THE AGRICULTURAL BANK FOR THE WINTER SEASON OF 1959-60 AND THE SUMMER SEASON OF 1960 AND THE INTEREST AND EXPENSES RELATING TO THESE LOANS.
  4. TO EXEMPT PEASANTS WHO ARE BOUND BY CONTRACTS WITH REGARD TO LAND OWNED BY THE AGRARIAN REFORM MINISTRY AND WHO HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO CULTIVATE THIS LAND, FROM ALL REVENUES THEY HAVE TO PAY TO THE STATE.

END BBC MON 2008 9/6 JM (UPI)







BRITISH EMBASSY

BAGHDAD

(3/4)



RECEIVED 5 June 1969

RESTRICTED BY NO. 10

12 JUN 1969

NEQ 3/548/1

Mr. Bushbridge

NEQ 10/256

Copied to  
NEQ 1/1  
for para 6.  
12.6

Please refer to my letter (3/4) of 3 May reporting a brief conversation I had had with General Takriti.

2. At a party last night I met Taha Muheiddin Malouf, the Minister of State and Acting Minister of Works and Housing. Rather to my surprise, he said - in fact he said it twice - that Takriti would shortly be going to London. He himself would be leaving for London in two days time. He would be going for a medical check-up - he had had an operation for flebitis in 1958 - but he hoped to see some friends. I said that perhaps he should try to see the Minister of State. His reaction to this confirmed the impression that I had formed during a recent talk I had with the Minister of Foreign Affairs that some sort of ban had been put on Iraqi Ministers visiting London calling on Mr. Roberts, because Mr. Roberts had still not come to Baghdad in response to Sheikhly's invitation of last January. You will remember that the Minister of Industry cut short his recent visit to London and cancelled arrangements we had made for him to call at the Office. Please see my telegram No. 417 of 1 May.

3. Malouf said that he would be seeing Takriti today. I took the opportunity of asking him to tell Takriti that I too would like to call on him, and he promised to do so. (Appointments are not always easy to arrange through the Protocol Department these days.)

4. It is interesting, I think, that Malouf should have told me all this about Takriti. It suggests that he is a Takriti man and that possibly, when in London, he will make some provisional arrangements for Takriti's visit.

5. In the course of a general tour d'horizon, I asked Malouf what was happening to Bazaz, adding that he had many friends in London and that the continuing uncertainty about his position did not help Anglo/Iraqi relations. Perhaps he will pass this on to Takriti.

6. Malouf said that the proposal that the Minister of State, Mr. Roberts, should visit Baghdad had had the approval of all members of the Council of Ministers. The Government were anxious to improve relations and I had no doubt noted that, in the course of the recent spy trials, no attempt had been made to implicate the United Kingdom. Some people were now beginning to ask why.

J.P. Tripp, Esq.,  
Near Eastern Department,  
Foreign & Commonwealth Office,  
London, S.W.1.

RESTRICTED





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7. I also asked about developments in the North - there has been some speculation, following the creation of the new Liwa in the Kurdish area, that further attempts were being made to reach a peaceful solution. I had the impression that Malouf thought that there was no chance of Barazani and Talabani patching things up.

8. I will, of course, telegraph as soon as we have anything firm on Takriti's plans.

*T. E. Evans*  
(T. E. Evans)

RESTRICTED



RESTRICTED



British Embassy,  
BAGHDAD.

69  
70

Reg to Sir.

Letter enclosed  
to

PM 146

(1/3)



Dear Hinchcliffe,

Iraq Internal

The Iraqi Press of 8 and 9 June has given full coverage to a television interview with Madhat al Haj Sirri, the former Mayor of Baghdad, in which he confessed to spying for the C.I.A. Sayid Sirri was among those whose property was attached on 19 May (see my letter 1/3 of 24 May).

2. The interview which was long and detailed amounted to a confession by Sayid Sirri that he had operated as an agent for the C.I.A. with the twofold task of acting as a contact for C.I.A. agents arriving in Baghdad, and forming, with the help of others, a national bloc based on the Barazanist Kurdish faction. It is this latter point that has attracted the bulk of the press comment. In particular revelations made during the interview that the C.I.A. was allegedly supplying the Barazanists with arms have been used to discredit the Kurdish movement.

3. It is noteworthy that no attempt was made to implicate Britain in the accusations of espionage. This has, in fact, been the trend in the past with some exceptions (see, for example, our telegram No. 478 of 20 May). However, as the Ambassador reported in his letter 3/4 of 5 June, some people are beginning to ask why.

69

Yours ever  
Michael Jenner.  
(M. K. Jenner)

P. R. M. Hinchcliffe, Esq.,  
Near Eastern Department,  
F.C.O.

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72

Cutting dated 12 JUN 1969 19

Mr. Thichet

RECEIVED IN REGISTRY No. 10 13 JUN 1969 NEQ 1/1
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Reg & Pa

m  
Iraq Internal

PM

12/6

## Bazzaz for TV

DR. ABDUL RAHMAN AL-BAZZAZ, former Prime Minister of Iraq and ambassador to London, now in prison for alleged spying for the U.S. and Israel, is being prepared for appearance on TV and for public "confession", according to Iraqi radio heard in London. An Iraqi recently arriving in London confirms that the announcement was given on Iraqi TV also.

The announcer denied a Kuwait newspaper report that Bazzaz had died in prison and said: "You will see him on our TV."

Dr. Bazzaz was familiar on Iraqi television in happier times. As Prime Minister he gave a weekly broadcast to prepare the nation for such policies as settlement of the unofficial war with the Kurds in northern Iraq.

Before risking him on TV, Baghdad's present rulers must be putting him under considerable pressure to say what suits them. As a man of proven integrity Dr. Bazzaz would not willingly lie, and is likely to resist to the limits of his strength.



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INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE

73

Cutting dated 17 JUN 1969

RECEIVED IN  
REGISTRY No. 10  
18 JUN 1969

NEQ 1/1

Mr. Huchette

**Iraqi Regime  
Says Ex-President  
Worked With CIA**

DAMASCUS, June 16 (AP).—The Iraqi government has said that it has uncovered a photograph proving that the late President Abdul Salam Aref was "deeply involved in the U. S. Central Intelligence Agency's espionage operations in Iraq."

In a broadcast over the government-controlled Baghdad Radio, Iraqi authorities said the photograph showed Mr. Aref flanked by a convicted spy and the wife of an Iraqi Air Force pilot who defected to Israel in 1966.

The convicted spy was identified as Abdullah Bukhari, hanged in Baghdad May 15. The pilot-defector, Munir Rufa, made headlines when he escaped to Israel in a Soviet-built MiG-21.

Mr. Aref died three years ago in a helicopter crash. He came to power in a coup against the leftist Ba'ath party regime. His brother, who succeeded him, subsequently was ousted by the Ba'athists.

The Ba'ath regime has executed 38 persons since the beginning of the year on various espionage charges. Most of them were charged with spying for the CIA or for Israel.

Reg & Co.

PMH

18/6



KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL

15 JUNE, 1969.

# Abdul-Salam Aref 'agent for CIA' — Baghdad

BEIRUT, Saturday, Cables.  
**THE** Iraqi Government announced today that the late President Abdul-Salam Aref was "a CIA agent and frequently received money from the Zionists."

In a statement released by the Ministry of Information and Guidance in Baghdad, the ruling Revolutionary Command Council claimed that Aref became an employee of the American Central Intelligence Agency when he was an army major in 1956.

The Iraqi Ministry claimed that the late President had a "weakness for women ... It was this fantastic weakness which led him to become a servant of the CIA." He is said to have kept 15 women at one stage of his military career, "lavishing on them presents he could not have afforded on the salary he received from the Armed Forces."

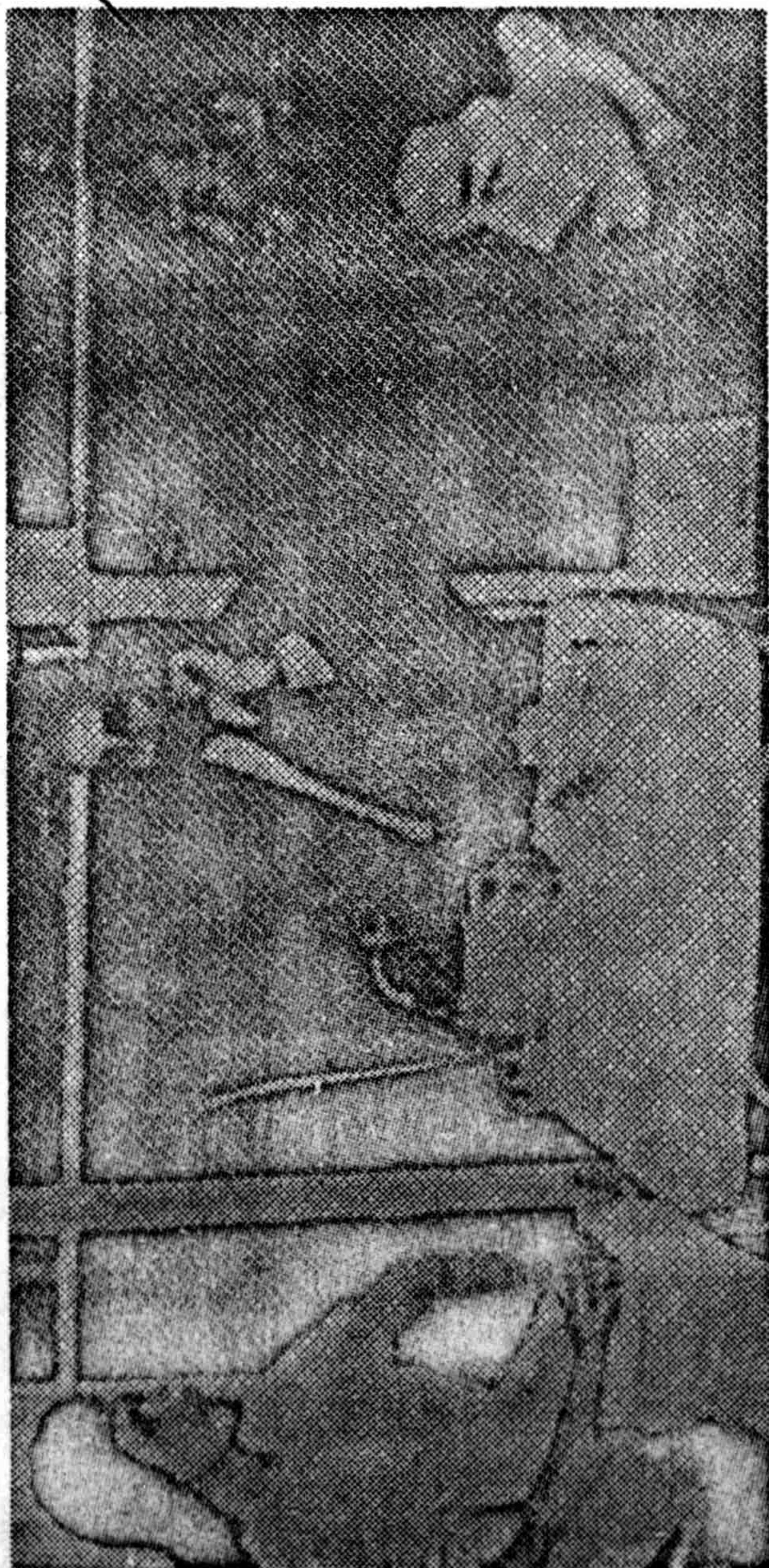
In 1958, Aref was leader of the Nasserite officers in Iraq and engineered the coup d'etat which led to the overthrow of King Faisal and the establishment of the Republic under the late Major-General Abdul Karim Kassem.

Barely a year later, Aref was jailed by Kassem and remained behind bars until 1963 when he masterminded another coup which led to the execution of Kassem.

Government sources said that even at that time Aref was an American agent and passed "all important information" to the CIA and "the Zionist espionage networks."

In 1963, Aref declared himself President and appointed the present strongman, Ahmad Hassan al-Bakr, as Premier. Most of the men presently ruling Iraq served as cabinet members.

(Contd. on page 7 Col. 1)



IRAQI TELEVISION has broadcast this undated photograph as "proof" to back up Ba'athist claims that the late Iraqi President, Abdul-Salam Aref (centre), was a spy for the CIA. Aref (left), wife of Capt. Munir Refa', who defected with his MiG fighter to Israel in 1966, wears a bracelet which Aref allegedly gave her. At right is Abdullah Bukhari, hanged as a spy last month. In the background is Bukhari's father, Mohammed Saleh. (AP radiophoto).



# Abdul-Salam

(Continued from page 1)

Iraqi sources said Bakr and his colleagues were not aware that Aref was an American agent. They suspected this, however, when he dismissed them and launched a campaign against the now ruling Ba'ath party.

Aref, the story continues, established friendly relations with Egyptian President Nasser "so that he could get information concerning the Egyptian military organisations." It was in the name of Nasserism and Arab nationalism that Aref cracked down on both the Ba'athists and the Communists in Iraq.

From 1963 until his death, Aref was considered Nasser's staunchest ally in the Arab world. During a state visit to Egypt he attended a mass rally during which Nasser embraced him and called him "my most

esteemed and beloved brother."

His overthrow of the Kassem regime was hailed as a victory for Nasser who had been feuding with Kassem for nearly five years over the leadership of the "progressive" Arab nations.

The Iraqi Government is expected soon to present in the form of a White Paper "documents" on Aref's service for the CIA and on "his harem life," reports from Baghdad said.

So far no mention has been made of Aref's brother, General Mohammad Aref, who succeeded him in 1965 after the strongman was killed in a helicopter crash. But sources here believe that Bakr may soon bring similar charges

Last month it was rumoured here that the former president was trying to stage a comeback with the help of his former chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Faisal Ibrahim al-Ansari, who was subsequently put under house arrest.

Observers here believe that the Aref story may later be used against several political leaders now being detained, notably former premiers Taher Yahya and Abdul-Rahman al-Bazaz. Both men served under the two Aref brothers.

It could also serve as a convenient excuse for fresh arrests both of army officers and of civilian leaders who were associated with the Aref brothers.

against the general, who is living in exile in Turkey.

Mohammad Aref was overthrown last July when Col. Abdul Razzaq al-Nayef staged a coup which led to the seizure of power by the Bakr faction of the Ba'ath Party.



*Mr. Allen*  
*then enter*  
*Ca.*  
*P. M. Hinchcliffe*  
*19/6*

SECRET



British Embassy,  
BAGHDAD.

(74)

(1/3)

RECEIVED IN REGISTRY No. 10 20 JUN 1969 NEQ 1/1
--

14 June, 1969.

Dear Hinchcliffe,

Iraq Internal

In my letter 1/3 of 10 June about the television interview with Madhat Al Haj Sirri, I referred to Sirri's confession that he had conspired "with the help of others" to form a national bloc. One of those specifically named as a co-conspirator was Mehdi al Hakim, the son of Muhsin al Hakim (Ayatullah) the aged leader of the Shi'ah sect in Iraq (see leading Personalities in Iraq No. 128). Mehdi al Hakim is not, as far as we know at the time of writing, in custody. A substantial reward for information as to his whereabouts has been publicised in the press and on radio and television. However his capture would certainly put the régime in a difficult position. You may by now have seen reports through other sources that if his son is captured and imprisoned Ayatullah will order a revolt of the Shi'ah. Ayatullah is now reported to be under house arrest in the Holy City of Qadamein, near Baghdad; it remains to be seen whether or not he will go as far as to order the Shi'ah to arms.

2. Meanwhile much television time was taken up on 11 and 12 June with fresh revelations about alleged C.I.A. activities in Iraq. An interview with a Dr. Yusuf Ma'amar revealed that the C.I.A. had been using commercial firms as "fronts" for C.I.A. activities. He also alleged that the ex-Prime Minister Abdul Razzak al Nayif was involved in plotting with the C.I.A. A rather fortuous attempt has been made to implicate Abdul Salam 'Arif also, on the strength of a photograph taken of him in the company of convicted spies.

3. Possibly the only point of interest to emerge from this welter of unconvincing revelations is that Britain has still not been implicated in the slightest way.

*We are still being slanted  
in the Press on the issues  
much over holding on the Gulf!*

*Yours ever*  
*M. K. Jenner*  
(M. K. Jenner)

P. R. M. Hinchcliffe, Esq.,  
Near Eastern Department,  
F.C.O.

SECRET



A. THE ARAB WORLD AND ISRAELConfession Attributed to Midhat al-Haj SirriBaghdad home service in Arabic 17.30 GMT 7.6.69

Excerpts from broadcast (live or from a recording):

[Announcer:] Compatriots, in fulfilment of the pledge by the President fighter Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr to expose spies and agents, to eradicate them and to free the dear homeland from their evil; and in consolidation of the determination of the great July revolution to destroy those who have sold themselves to colonialism and Zionism, we now introduce to you one of these agent spies - Midhat al-Haj Sirri, US Intelligence agent.

[Interviewer:] The great July revolution, with its profound and genuine objectives and ideas and its loyal leadership, has fulfilled its promise by aiming its lawful weapons at and eliminating the enemies of our homeland and nation - the enemies of the progress which our Arab people are seeking. The first enemy our revolution has identified and then lawfully and violently eliminated has been the spy rings. The masses of the people have witnessed the magnificent results clearly evident before them.

Compatriots, your revolution - the great July revolution, and its great party - the Socialist Arab Ba'th party, which carries a weapon in one hand and the tools of construction and progress in the other, will continue the march along the right path - the path of progress, construction, and prosperity; the path of the masses' freedom and dignity. In opposing and eliminating spy networks, the revolution will daily take fresh action until the last saboteur is eliminated.

Compatriots, today we introduce to you a citizen who was deceived by the US Central Intelligence and lured by its cheap and dirty methods until he was finally caught in the net. On this occasion, we urge citizens who are in a similar position to benefit from the amnesty to absolve their sins and serve their homeland and nation by offering without delay anything that may serve the country. Let us all wage a violent war against colonialism, Zionism and imperialism. Today we introduce to you the retired Brigadier Midhat al-Haj Sirri, who will speak about his connections with the US Central Intelligence.

Q. Welcome, Haj Sirri, at your request to appear on television before our compatriots to reveal all your information about your connections with the US Central Intelligence. The first question is how and when were you recruited into the service of the US Central Intelligence?

A. In 1960 when I was a refugee in Beirut...

In the course of a discussion [in Beirut in early 1967] we turned to the situation in Iraq, which in recent years has lacked stability, development, progress and so forth. I explained my view that the Mullah Mustafa [Barzani] group in northern Iraq had by their secessionist action contributed to the lack of stability. There had been several factions with connections and other activities; and various blocs which had sought power and posts or other objectives. There was the group of Mahdi as-Sayyid Muhsin al-Hakim, who among other things wanted a different course of action. To overcome such a weak situation and lack of stability, Iraq had to stand on its feet. I believed that if the various forces fully co-operated, Iraq would make good progress, stability would prevail, and these problems would end. Iraq would then be able to co-operate with the other Arab States from a strong position. [I was told:] We are prepared to help you in this field and in such a grouping of forces. If you wish to undertake this action, US Intelligence will support and help you in the desired way. In addition, we ask you to help our men who come to Iraq and to facilitate their mission...



Q. Of the US Intelligence men?

A. Of the US Intelligence naturally, because the US Intelligence is like an octopus which extends everywhere and has its own means and ways to exploit people. We agreed on this and he told me: We shall offer you an open account. You may withdraw 50,000 Lebanese pounds at a time... You can receive the amounts you require for this and other work. After this discussion I left them for Baghdad... After I arrived in Baghdad I was approached by one of the persons I had met and had connections with while I was a refugee in Syria...

Yes, I knew that he had come from US Intelligence and had some other business, perhaps in service of US Intelligence... I was approached by others in their capacity as journalists or tourists... Naturally, these people had connections and business with other groups and networks. I was not aware of their real mission. They apparently called on me mainly to facilitate their affairs.

Q. What was their intention?

A. To facilitate their affairs, and to mislead and divert the authorities' attention from them...

A Jordanian ... visited me and asked me for a job. But I was unable to find him a job so he left.

Q. What was his name?

A. I do not recall, I swear to God... All these activities were under the cover of journalism, photography and tourism. But they were all actually connected with the US Intelligence Service. Its activities are not confined to one place. The country is not a small one and it has been engaged in Intelligence for a long time. Intelligence has its own bases, motives, and so forth...

Q. At your meeting in Beirut, where you agreed on joint action, you were charged firstly with facilitating the US Intelligence men's entry to Iraq. They would then obtain whatever information available from you.

A. That is correct...

Q. This was your first assignment when you were recruited into US Intelligence. What about your second assignment?

A. This was what we agreed upon in Beirut - the formation of a bloc. He told me: I shall facilitate all contacts. After I returned to Baghdad...

Q. Would you explain in detail? Your second job was to form a political front backed by US Intelligence.

A. Yes. After returning to Baghdad, I ... went to Darband-i-Khan to spend the holidays. There, [name] approached me on the subject of the co-operation with Mustafa Barzani and Sayyid Mahdi Sayyid Muhsin al-Hakim supporters and other Iraqi groups to form a bloc.

Q. Allow me. You were assigned ... to form a political bloc as part of the US Intelligence plan. What made [name] approach you?

A. When he approached me on the subject, I concluded that he was the contact and that he must have discussed the subject previously... It is definite that the Kurds had approached [him] on the subject of this bloc. Thus, when he spoke to me on the subject I was not surprised... We agreed on the subject. When I returned to Baghdad,



[he] asked me to visit him at his house. I called on him. Present at his house were ... [two named] Barzani supporters. We discussed the subject... They expressed their readiness to provide arms, men and anything we wanted ... whenever needed. When we spoke to the Kurdish representatives about this, they said that they were ready to supply us with arms when needed. They were ready...

Q. What would the Kurds provide you with?

A. Arms.

Q. Through whom?

A. Through the US Intelligence.

Q. How would the arms be delivered?

A. Through Iran or any other State. The roads are open. I imagine that when the USA is involved in something it has supply problems. Thus, the supply of arms had to be done in this way. At that time, the subject took a serious turn. Of course, through the assistance and the support of the US Intelligence ... work was co-ordinated between us and the Barzani supporters. The meetings continued. In one of my meetings ... I requested the strengthening of the Kurdish radio run by Mustafa Barzani. This request was made because our group requested that at the early stages we should distribute leaflets or issue statements explaining our views to the people in Iraq. We would say that the so-called Barzani mutiny was not a secessionist Kurdish movement, but rather a patriotic Iraqi movement.

Q. I understand from what you say that you requested [name] to tell the Kurds to strengthen their radio and to speak on behalf of all Iraqis.

A. Yes. They would speak on behalf of Iraqis - not as a secessionist movement seeking independent political entity. Their movement would be a general Iraqi movement to attract all people and form a patriotic government in the Kurdish area. Of course, the Government would be outside the control of the authorities and backed by the US Intelligence.

Q. During your continuous meetings ... did you not discuss the assignment of duties?

A. Yes... The Barzani supporters would provide arms and funds from the US Intelligence... I and the other groups would exploit my relations and contacts...

Q. Where would you get the funds from?

A. They would get the funds from the US Intelligence... I expressed the view that leaflets would not serve the purpose because occasionally other organisations distribute leaflets. I said that the best method would be to strengthen Barzani's radio. Once this radio had been strengthened, our voice would reach all Iraqi citizens. We would speak about our aims, namely the establishment of a patriotic Government representing all elements and other aims...

Q. ... You complained about the difficulty of obtaining arms from the North. He told you that he would facilitate matters through the Kurds and Iran. Did you not ask him how?

A. We were in continuous contact with the Kurds. When we discussed the subject of arms, the Kurds said: We are ready to send you arms to whatever place you wish - at the right time. Of course, all this was being done in co-ordination between the Kurds and the Intelligence Service. The meetings continued until the outbreak of the 17th July revolution...



Q. Did the Barzani supporters actually supply you with arms?

A. No. They did not supply us with arms. But they agreed to supply us with arms at any time or place. They said: We have ample arms, bombs, and [sentence incomplete].

Q. In accordance with the plan?

A. Yes. In accordance with the plan drawn up by the US Intelligence.

Q. Before concluding the interview I want to ask you one more question. Have you been ill-treated?

A. No. Since my arrest I have been well treated. I thank the brothers for their care for me during the time of my arrest.

Q. I have asked you what might seem an irrelevant question in order to refute the false allegations made by foul voices. For instance, the Kuwaiti paper 'Ar-Ra'y al-Amm' has impudently carried the following headline on its front page: "Has Bazzaz died in a Baghdad jail?" In this hostile report, the paper says: 'Ar-Ra'y al-Amm' has learned from reliable sources that the former Iraqi Premier Dr. Abd ar-Rahman al-Bazzaz has mysteriously died in a Baghdad jail. I wish to point out here that the day will come when Bazzaz will make a frank statement about his associations and the conspiratorial quarter for which he was working. He will divulge all his information. He is in fact present now and ready to give all information and facts. We advise Kuwait's 'Ar-Ra'y al-Amm' to stop publishing lies because this will not be in its interest. It will make us lose respect for it. I have asked the question to refute the allegations. Do you have anything to add? You can speak freely.

A. My conclusions on what I call the national question - this tribulation - is that as I have already said, the US Intelligence is an octopus which entraps good citizens and exploits elements for its own interests. I hope and wish that in view of the long periods of instability we have been through, citizens will co-operate with, and help their national Government, which is caring for the country's and people's interests and is working for their wellbeing and stability. Every person with any inclination opposing the country should in the service of his country and fellow countrymen surrender himself and change his method.

Q. What conclusions have you drawn after being recruited by the US Intelligence?

A. The conclusion I have drawn is that one must always resort to one's conscience and avoid any contact with such countries as the USA and Western countries, which always seek their own interests.

### The Gromyko-Riyad Talks

Cairo home service in Arabic 20.00 GMT 12. 6. 69

Text of report:

Talks between the UAR delegation headed by Mahmud Riyad, the Foreign Minister, and the Soviet delegation headed by Andrey Gromyko the [Soviet] Foreign Minister, were resumed at 19.00. The meeting lasted two and a half hours. Riyad said President Jamal Abd an-Nasir would hold a final meeting with the Soviet delegation before noon tomorrow to complete consultations on the Middle East problem. Riyad added that tonight's discussion centred on developments in the situation, political moves in New York between the Big Four, political moves in Washington between the USA and the Soviet Union and the provisional statement to be issued by the Big Four.



BRITISH EMBASSY,

BEIRUT.

(1/24)

19 June, 1969.

The Shi'a

The Shi'a here are in something of a state about the relations between their religious leaders in Iraq and the Iraqi authorities.

2. This is not just a question of the treatment of Iranians, including some Sayyids, who are reported to have been somewhat unceremoniously, to put it mildly, bundled out of the country. It appears that the T.V. "confessions" of Midhat Haj Sirri implicated the son of the senior Mujtahid who has fled the country. The community leaders here have evidence of hostile security measures against the Mujtahid and fear that a general campaign of denigration, if not outright persecution, is about to be opened against the Shi'a leaders in Iraq.

3. The Shi'a here have become emboldened and better organised, by the creation of a Higher Shi'a Islamic Council, to the Presidency of which has been elected Sayyid Musa Sadr, a man born in Iran but of mixed Lebanese and Iraqi origin, and who has studied at Najef and Kerbala. The Sayyid, since his election, has adopted the title of Imam and, through his leadership of the now large Shi'a community, is now a power in the land (he has been given treatment by the President, including a personal call, equivalent to that accorded the Maronite Patriarch). His views on the Iraqi situation are naturally strong and I understand that he summoned the Foreign Minister and persuaded him to take the matter up with Yassin, the new Iraqi Ambassador here. He did so this week. Yassin, of course, denied the whole story.

4. The next step is that the Imam is negotiating with his Sunni colleagues the text of a joint communiqué condemning the Iraqi authorities attitude to the Shi'a and to religion in general. The Sunnis are reluctant to be dragged into this and may well in the end not go along with this idea.

/5. In general

A.E.Saunders Esq.,  
BAGHDAD.

THIS IS NOT A  
NEW FACTOR IN  
IRAQI POLITICS.  
THE SUNNIS HAVE  
ALWAYS KEPT THE  
TOP JOBS FOR THEMSELVES.  
WITH THE OLD UNBOLD  
PUT AS A SUP  
TO THE SHI'AS - AND  
THIS ONLY AT THE  
BEST OF TIMES.

(76)



CONFIDENTIAL

-2-

✓ 5. In general the Iraqis are in bad odour here. They are criticised by the nationalists for setting up a separate fedayeen organisation, and by the right wing for sending fedayeen infiltrators into Lebanese territory. There seems to be little doubt that this has been done with official or at any rate military Iraqi connivance. The Iraqi Military Attaché here is known by the Lebanese authorities to have had a hand in this and to be hand in glove with the rebellious left wing here. The Director General of Public Security was particularly scathing about him in conversation with a colleague the other day. There is also considerable scepticism which has even found expression in the nationalist press about the validity of the T.V. "confessions". If the Imam succeeds in adding fuel to these anti-Iraqi feelings, the M.A. may find himself p.n.g.!

(J.L.Y.Sanders)

c.c. Near Eastern Department  
Tehran  
Washington, D.C.



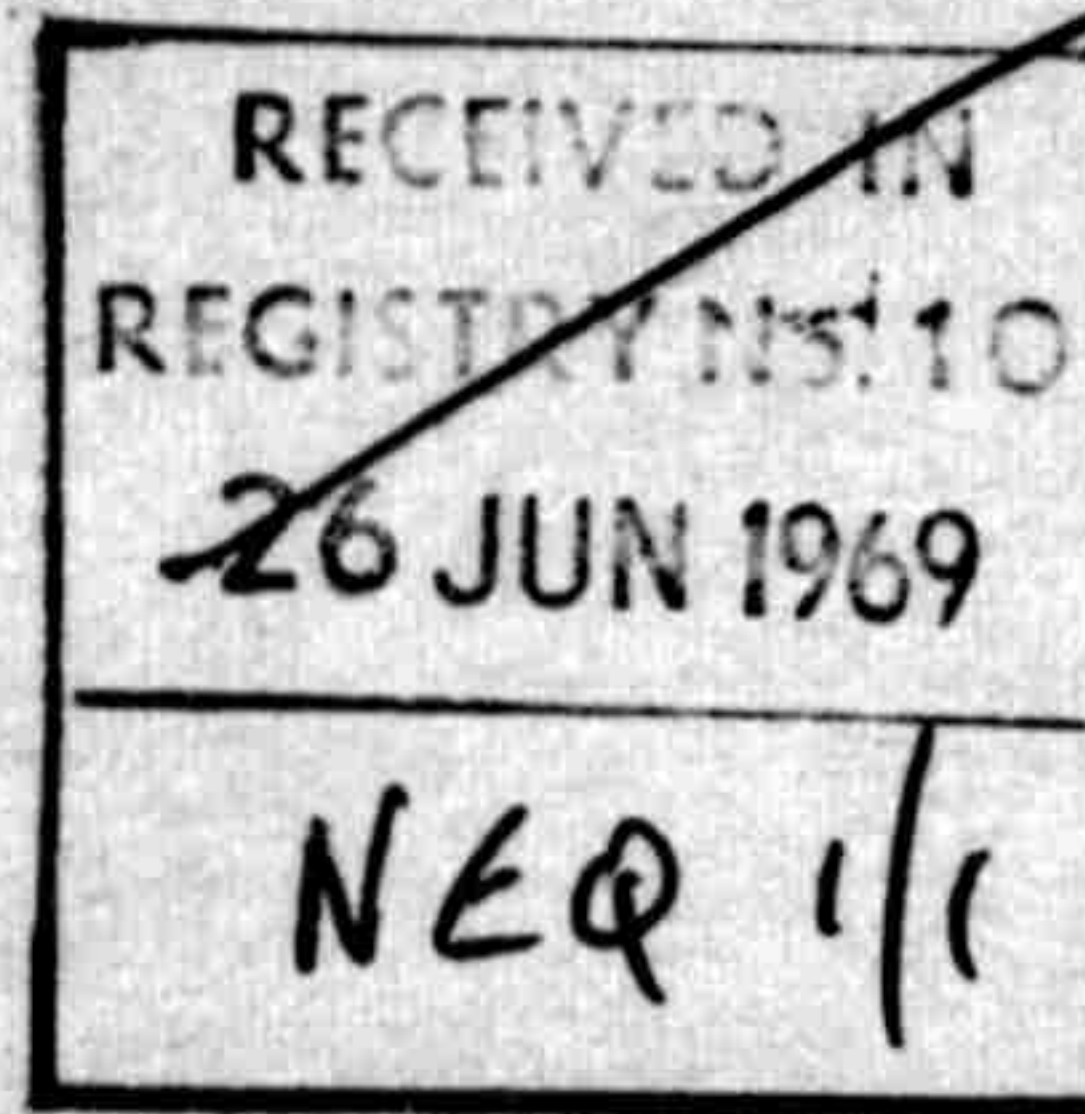
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British Embassy,

BAGHDAD.

(1/3)



20 June, 1969.

Dear Hinchcliffe,

Iraq Internal

Further revelations of espionage activities were made in a television interview on the evening of 17 June with Rashid Muslih Taha, the ex Military Governor of Baghdad and Minister of the Interior. I reported his arrest in my letter 1/3 of 24 May.

2. This interview followed very much the lines of the previous two. Sayid Taha confessed to working for the C.I.A. as part of a group providing economic and political information about Iraq. He also confessed to being involved in a plot against the present Ba'ath régime following the overthrow of Abdul Razzaq al Nayif. Among those whom Sayid Taha implicated were Lutfi al Ubaidi, Fuad al-Rikabi, Shukri Saleh Zaki and Abdul Aziz Barakat. Again there was no hint of British involvement. The Minister for Foreign Affairs told the Ambassador on 19 June that he was satisfied, and very pleased that there was no British interference in Iraqi affairs.

Yours ever

Michael Jenner.  
(M. K. Jenner)

P. R. M. Hinchcliffe, Esq.,  
Near Eastern Department,  
F.C.O.

leg & Pa

MMW

25/6

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Cover for  
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Mr Minchella  
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WITH THE COMPLIMENTS  
OF  
THE CHANCERY

(J.L.Y. Sanjay)

RECEIVED IN  
REGISTRY No. 10  
24 JUN 1969  
NEA 1/1

20 June, 1969.

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
BEIRUT.

PA PUNYA  
25/6



Cutting dated 24 JUN 1969, 19

PRTH

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## 'SPIES' NAME CIA LINK ON IRAQI TV

By IAN COLVIN  
in Baghdad

IRAQIS viewing Baghdad television have been startled by a spy series in which former Cabinet Ministers have been named as maintaining contacts with the American Intelligence Agency.

The most prominent of those to appear on television and give evidence of their own involvement have been Madhat al Haj Sirri, former Mayor of Baghdad; a retired brigadier; and Maj-Gen. Ashid Muslih al Tikriti, a former military Governor-General and Minister of the Interior in the Government of 1963.

A further television revelation in this series is a photograph showing the former President Abdel Salem Aref in a family group with a renegade Iraqi Air Force officer who later flew a MiG 21 aircraft to Israeli territory.

### Both recognised

Viewers who knew the former Mayor and the former Minister of the Interior say that they have recognised both them and their voices. Baghdad newspapers have quoted them and their evidence at length.

This evidence alleges that CIA agents in Beirut and London were working since 1965 to obtain economic influence in Iraq, and later to create a faction in which Kurds and Arab opponents of the Baathists would join a movement against the present Government.

Two arrested men, broadcasting under interrogation, have described their contacts with Lutfi al Ubaidi, who is named as directing the Baghdad CIA operations from foreign capitals. A third prisoner, Dr. Yousif Memar, has told on television how he worked for trading and investment companies that were cover agencies for the CIA.

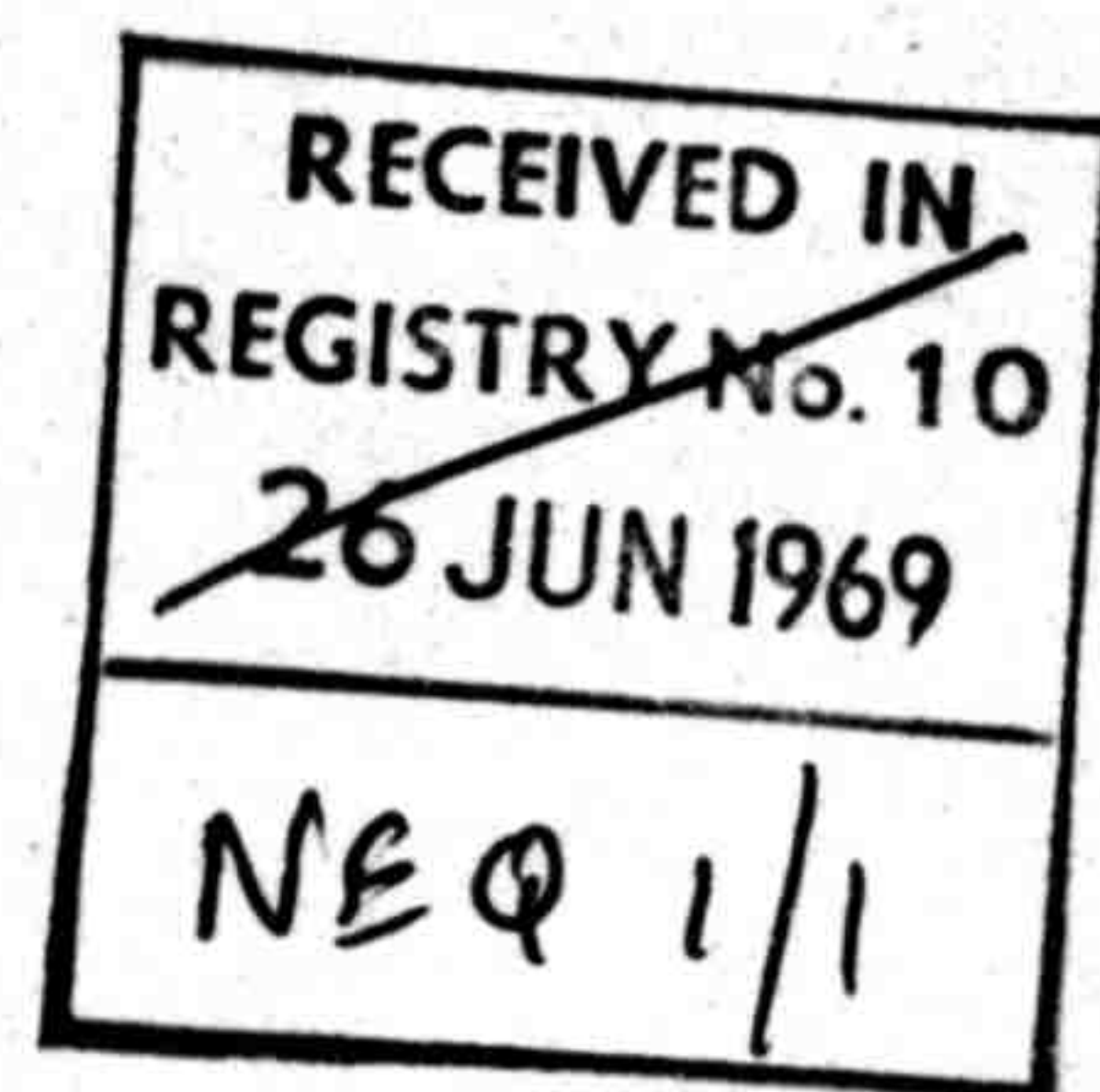
Gen. Muslih admits to having provided market research reports and asserts that other former Ministers provided similar reports on subjects of interest to the CIA.

### Kurdish problem

Prominent men arrested in this year's purges have been mentioned in the course of these three television interviews.

They include Dr. Abdul Rahman al Bazzaz, former Prime Minister, and Maj-Gen. Abdul Aziz al Quevili, former Defence Minister, as well as Mulla Mustafa Barazani, whose active leadership of the Kurdish rebels still poses an acute problem.

The pattern of the television smear, which precedes any court proceedings, affects the most prominent of those who attempted to forestall or prevent the growing ascendancy of the Baathists in the Government during November, 1967, and July, 1968.



leg &amp; Pa

Iraq  
Internal

PMH

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NEQ 1/1

**MOROCCO** (20.30 GMT commentary superseded by recording of King Hasan's 14th May address to the armed forces.)

**SYRIA** 11.15 GMT (repeated 18.15 GMT): Dayan's threat and the need for Arab co-ordination.

**"Voice of the Arabian Peninsula"** (Damascus) 16.30 GMT: (i) 'At-Tali'a' and 'Ruz al-Yusuf' on Iranian attempts to annex the Gulf through immigration; (ii) the meeting of the Supreme Council of the Federation of Arab Amirates (see above); (iii) Yemeni folklore.

**UAR** 11.30 GMT: Sa'd Abu as-Su'ud on Israeli preparations for aggression. 17.30 GMT: ("We and the World"): (i) Israel's abortive raids on Egypt as an attempt to boost its morale; (ii) the riots in Kuala Lumpur.

**"Voice of the Arabs"** (Cairo) 10.30 GMT: Salah as-Suwayfi on the importance of fida'i action and Israeli casualties. 13.15 GMT ("Palestine Service"): Adil al-Qadi on Israeli threats and Israeli anxiety due to growing Arab strength and Palestinian resistance. 14.15 GMT ("People in Sinai"): A "free man" of Sinai appealing for unity against the enemy. 15.20 GMT ("Conversation with a Listener"): The need for fida'i organisations to unite. 16.00 GMT ("Arabian Peninsula"): Hamzah Muhsin as-Saqqaf on agriculture in Yemen. 17.00 GMT: Sa'd Ghazal on the world's awareness of Israel's aggressive and expansionist nature.

**"Maghrib Service"** (Cairo) 20.30 GMT: Samir Abd at-Tawwab on the strong links between Israel, imperialism and the racist countries.

**YEMEN** San'a 17.00 GMT: The Southern Yemeni rulers' attempts to harm the riyal through smuggling and speculation.

### Reports in Brief

**Political murder in Baghdad** The Iraqi authorities have found the body of a young man named Sabah Matar near Baghdad airport. He was a member of the Executive Committee of the Cigarette Workers' Trade Union. The Ba'th Party's Regional Command has announced the murder of Matar and the arrest of the assassin, Fadil Jasim, who has confessed to the murder. The reasons for the murder have not been revealed but are believed to have been political. (Iraqi News Agency in Arabic 10.30 GMT 14.5.69)

**S Yemeni Governor's tour** Ahmad Muhammad Bin Arab, Governor of the Third Governorate, is making an inspection tour of the second district of the Third Governorate to examine conditions and urgent problems of the inhabitants. (Aden in Arabic 14.30 GMT 14.5.69)



NEQ 1/1

ME/3103/A/5

Military activities in the lower Jordan valley (Text of Jordanian official statement)  
At 15.25 today [17.6.69] an enemy Auster reconnaissance aircraft flew over our forces in the Maghtas area. Our anti-aircraft guns forced it to return to the occupied area. At 15.40 the enemy opened medium machine-gun fire at our forces in the Mundassah area, about four kilometres north of the King Husayn [Allenby] Bridge. Our forces returned the fire. The exchange lasted five minutes. Our forces suffered no loss. The enemy was seen removing a casualty from the scene of the clash. (Amman in Arabic 16.05 GMT 17.6.69)

Asifah, Sa'iqah and DPFLP operations (Abstract of Palestine Armed Struggle Command statements 225-229 dated 17th June) 225/Asifah 563: On the night of 11th June a force of Group 768 destroyed one vehicle and damaged two others south of Kharas village in the Hebron district, killing or wounding about 15 soldiers. On 14th June a force of Group 136 destroyed a vehicle on the Karantina-Shasha'ah road, killing or wounding its occupants. 226/Asifah 564: On the night of 9th June a force of Group 629 attacked a half-track near the Shaykh Muhammad cemetery in Khan Yunis, killing its occupants. On 13th June a force of Group 629 destroyed a vehicle east of the Burayj Camp in the Gaza Strip, killing or wounding its occupants. On 13th June a force of Group 166 killed seven soldiers in the Tall al-Ghazal region east of Beit Guvrin. 227/Sa'iqah 122: On 15th June a force of the Muhammad Salim Za'adi Group attacked an observation post in the Maghtas area north of the Dead Sea. Two billets were set on fire, one 50-calibre machine-gun destroyed and a number of soldiers killed or wounded. 228/DPFLP 104: On 13th June one of our forces destroyed a half-track and a 50-calibre machine-gun on the Ashdot Ya'aqov-Sha'ar Hagolan road, killing three soldiers. On 15th June the rocket unit hit vehicles, set billets on fire, destroyed a generator and killed or wounded a number of troops in Khushniyah in the Golan Settlements. 229/Sa'iqah 123: On 16th June the Zahir Abu Shuri Force destroyed a tracked vehicle on the Kefar Ruppin road, killing or wounding a number of troops. ("Voice of Fatah" in Arabic 17.30 GMT 17.5.69)

"Voice of Fatah" programme 17th June The "Voice of Fatah" programme in Arabic on 17th June (17.30 GMT) called on every Palestinian to play his part in the revolution, condemned the demolition of 12 houses in Jerusalem, warned the masses against "nominal organisations" not part of the revolution, advised students to train for Fatah, and explained how the Arab fighters had no personal aims in their struggle.

Fatah code messages (Text of messages) (i) To Sarhabil and Ghazal: proceed to sin in the morning. (ii) From base to 1001: the gift has arrived. ("Voice of Fatah" in Arabic 17.30 GMT 17.6.69)

Confession Attributed to Maj-Gen. Rashid Muslih

Baghdad home service in Arabic 17.30 GMT 17.6.69

Editorial report:

A confession attributed to the retired Maj-Gen. Rashid Muslih at-Tikriti was broadcast live or from a recording at 17.30 GMT on 17th June; it was in the same form as the confession attributed to Mi'mar (see ME/3102/A/9). The listeners were first told that many tragedies suffered by Iraq had been due to these "traitor spies" and enemy agents who had sold secrets and exposed the homeland to the enemy.

After giving his name, age and residence Muslih said that he had first made the acquaintance of an American Intelligence agent in 1963 when the latter had visited him in the Military Governor's office. He had met this agent frequently both in the office and at receptions. In 1964 he had been invited to the agent's house where he was told of the latter's connections with American Intelligence and had agreed to work with him. He had been entrusted with gathering information about the economic situation in Iraq.



CONFIDENTIAL

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British Embassy,  
BAGHDAD.

(1/3)

26 June, 1969.

*Dear Hinchcliffe,*  
Iraq Internal

The Press of 25 June reported that the Revolutionary Command Council has decided to attach the movable and immovable property of Dr. Abdul Karim Kannunah (Leading Personalities in Iraq 1965 No. 19). Dr. Kannunah was later Minister of Economy in the Tahir Yahya Cabinet of January 1968.

*Yours ever*

*M. K. Jenner*  
(M. K. Jenner)

P. R. M. Hinchcliffe, Esq.,  
Near Eastern Department,  
F.C.O.

*leg. & pa.*

*with attached*

*from* *Personality*  
*Resort* *advis*

*PLM* *3/7*

CONFIDENTIAL



**19. Abdul Karim Kannuna (Dr.)**

Born 1913 of a Sunni mother and a Shia father. Studied in Germany, travelling also in France and Algeria, where he got into trouble with the French authorities. Joined Government service in 1931, appointed Inspector-General of Finance in 1951, Director-General of Income Tax in 1952, Accountant-General in 1953 and acting Director-General of Income Tax in 1955. A member of the Government Oil Refineries Administration Board since 1952. Appointed Director-General of the Estate Bank in September 1957 and, having survived all political changes unscathed, was appointed Minister of Industry on 20 November, 1963. Superseded in the Cabinet reshuffle of 17 June, 1964, by Dr. Abdul Hassan Zalzal (q.v.). Returned to banking, as Director-General of the Estate Bank once again.

An able accountant, he has risen steadily through hard work (he claims to have taken no leave for 15 years), and through cultivating useful friends. Friendly and helpful to the British, his wartime internment by us at Fao after the Rashid Ali revolt is not forgotten, although understood.

His personal sympathies almost certainly lie with the pre-1958 régime. German is his first foreign language but he speaks with ease his own brand of rather garbled English and also has some French. May emerge again as a "technician" Minister.

**20. Abdul Karim Mustafa Nasrat (Retired Brigadier)**

A parachutist, who attended a parachute course at Abingdon in 1958. Was retired with the rank of major in October 1958. Arrested in March 1959 after the Mosul Revolt, he was released in June 1959. He joined I.P.C. as Station Superintendent, T.I, but resigned after one year when refused a transfer to Baghdad.

On 8 February, 1963, he led the ground forces which stormed the Ministry of Defence. He was appointed to the command of the "National Guard" with the rank of brigadier, and afterwards to the command of the Fourth Armoured Division. He is thought to have been a member of the National Council of the Revolutionary Command. After the Revolution of 18 November, 1963, he disappeared completely and was rumoured to be under arrest or at least heavy surveillance. Arrested after the abortive plot of 4 September, 1964, the military side of which he is widely believed to have organised. In July 1965 it was announced that his trial for complicity in the 1964 plot would begin in September, but nothing more was heard of this.

I.P.C. thought that he was a tough little man; efficient but obviously not with his heart in their job. A good fighting man, he has no great reputation for intelligence and has always seemed indiscreet in conversation. Well disposed towards Britain.

**21. Abdul Latif al-Badri (Dr.)**

Sunni, born Samarra, 1922. Educated in Baghdad and Cairo. Went on to London and became the first Iraqi to obtain a Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons, about 1947. Joined the staff of the Jumhuriyyah Hospital in 1949. Worked hard during the '50s at his private surgical practice and became rich.

Professor of Surgery, Baghdad College of Medicine, 1961. Arrested, 1962 for nationalist (i.e., pro-U.A.R.) activity. Released, 8 February, 1963. Appointed Dean of the Medical College and Head of the Surgery Department by the Ba'athist administration. Appointed Minister of Health in Arif Abdul Razzaq's administration on 6 September, 1965, and kept on by Dr. al-Bazzaz, 21 September.

Dr. Abdul Latif has his fair share of nationalist aspirations, but is basically an opportunist who, having made his pile, is keen to get official recognition for his endeavours. He will not, however, risk anything by becoming too deeply involved in politics. His wife, Dr. Lamia, is the Dean of the Nursing College, and Professor of Gynaecology and Obstetrics at the Medical College; in her fields she is just as pushing and ambitious as him. They live in one of the largest houses in the suburb of Al-Mansur, and both speak good English.

**22. Abdul Latif al-Darraji (Retired Brigadier)**

Sunni, born Ramadi, 1913. Graduated from the Military College in 1937, and at the time of the July 1958 Revolution held the rank of Colonel commanding the Battalion of the 20th Infantry Brigade (President's Arif's own). Promoted Brigadier after the 1958 Revolution, and later appointed Commander of the Military College.

Arrested and retired in April 1959, after having been accused of trying to organise, with Tahir Yahya (q.v.), a rising in Baghdad at the same time as the Mosul revolt. Released in Baghdad at the same time as the Mosul revolt. Released in July 1959 for lack of evidence and appointed Mutasarrif of Kut. Transferred to Mosul April 1961; and to the Ministry of the Interior, May 1963. Appointed Ambassador to Libya, August 1963, and transferred to Ankara, early 1965. Made Minister of the Interior after the removal of the Nasserite Subhi Abdul Hamid (q.v.), 11 July, 1965.

This officer, outwardly dapper and complacent in a Pasha-like way, is a dye in the wool plotter who owes his advancement since 1963 to President Arif. He will probably not be the principal in any future attempt to subvert the régime, but may well play a subsidiary role and will have to be watched carefully by the dictator of the moment. His relative, Colonel Shafiq al-Darraji (q.v.) became Director of Military Intelligence after the abortive *coup* on 15-16 September, and between them these two officers are well placed to control the intelligence machine. Brigadier Abdul Latif is married, with some English.

Abdul Latif al-Darraji was killed in an air crash in Southern Iraq on 13 April, 1966.

**23. Abdul Latif al-Kamali**

Born about 1920. Sunni. Originally in the Ministry of Guidance as a Press Attaché, in which capacity he served in Damascus and Tunis.

Appointed Assistant Director-General of the Iraq News Agency after the 18 November, 1963, Revolution. Ran the agency practically single-handed while Brigadier Duraid al-Damluji, a retired officer, was learning the ropes as Director-General. Transferred in the early summer of 1964 to the Department of Broadcasting and Television as Director-General.

In this politically sensitive appointment he just about kept his head above water. The Egyptians described him as "a sound Nationalist". One of the founding members of the Arab Socialist Union for the Iraqi region, he surprised everybody by being elected Chairman of the Financial sub-committee of the Union's Higher Executive Committee (August-September 1964). After quarrels between the Nasserite Ministers and President Arif on the direction of the radio and t.v. services, Kamali was removed from his post on 30 June, 1965, and held *en disponibilité* at the Ministry.

A small, unassuming, bespectacled technician of deep Arab Nationalist conviction. He is usually courteous but not very helpful. Never attends large parties, and is difficult to track down at the best of times.



Mr. [Signature]  
Mr. ACLA [Signature]  
OUR OTHER CHEEK IS  
GETTING PRETTY BATTERED!

BAGHDAD PRESS EXTRACTS

British Embassy. Baghdad.

Sunday and Monday - June 1 and 2, 1969.

EDITORIALS:

SUNDAY:

Al-Jumhuriyah: Direct Exploitation of Sulphur is a Bold Revolutionary Step on the Road to Economic Independence.

Al-Thawra: Stewart's Statements Revealed the Aggressive Plans of Britain.

Al-Nur: On the Upheaval of the Sudanese People.

(The above editorials are adequately reported in the Baghdad Observer of Monday, June 2).

Al-Hurriyah: Exploitation of Sulphur is a Step Strengthening our Abilities in Our Battle of Destiny Against Imperialism and Zionism.

The editorial is almost on the same lines as that of Al Jumhuriyah of to-day.

MONDAY:

Al-Jumhuriyah: On the Quick Positive Results of the Revolutionary Measures taken in connection with agrarian reform.

In the column "For You" and under the heading "An Englishman in the Gulf" the writer deals with the CENTO Pact meeting held at Tehran which was attended by Mr. Stewart, Britain's Foreign Minister, and the statements made by him subsequent to his return home. The writer maintains that the attitude of Britain towards the Gulf is not much different from that of 1947 concerning the Occupied territory where Britain set up a State. This attitude is being repeated in the Gulf as being a part of Iran which is being restored to the latter. The writer asks whether Britain, in agreement with America, will give Iran a promise to lay hand on the 'land, sky and the Arab people' for no return other than oil, or that Iran will pay much more for the 'dirty British promise', although the writer maintains that there is nothing else which Iran could give to the "British beast".

/Al-Thawra....



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Al-Thawra:

The Arab Nation is Looking Forward to Sudan to play its role in the Battle of Destiny.

The editorial maintains that the recent change which took place in the Sudan is considered foremost among the major events which took place in the Arab homeland after the catastrophe of the 5th of June.

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This paper publishes an account of an audience given by President Ahmad Hasan al Bakr to Dr. Mantz, Assistant Professor at the University of Achen and representative of the West German Television Station. A separate translation will be prepared and submitted in due course.

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Al-Hurriyah:

Recent Amendments to the Agrarian Reform Law will create a counter emigration to the rural districts.

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In the column "Political Horizons" and under the heading "Talks of the Four Major Powers will Yield No Result", Shahab maintains that Israel now finds a war with the Arabs the only means for saving itself from its difficult conditions. Since it is the determination of Israel to wage a war against the Arabs, the writer is impelled to say that to throw all the weight on the four major-power talks will not be in the interest of the Arabs, and that it is preferable for the Arabs to prepare all their energies for the battle with Israel. Such being the case, the writer maintains that the Arab people find no reason for postponing a meeting of the Arab Heads of States until the results of the four major-power talks had been known at the same time at which Israel is preparing for waging a war against the Arabs.

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Al-Nur:

In its editorial, this paper attacks the leaders of the Iraqi Communist Party and describes them as swinging between the extreme right and the extreme left. These leaders are accused of having caused the catastrophes and calamities which took place in the country. The editorial maintains that the efforts being exerted to create a nationalist bloc with the Communists will fail, because the command of the Communist Party will not be serious in this respect, unless their conditions are agreed to. An example of the conditions of leaders of the Communist Party is their demand for an agreement with the leaders of the reactionary movement in Kurdistan and the demand made to the Ba'th Party in power that the leaders of the Kurdish reactionary movement be represented in the Nationalist Bloc at the same time at which the leaders of the Barazani movement are implementing Imperialist and Israeli schemings.

----- /News Items.....



M. Hinchliffe

# Iraqis may make Bazzaz face TV denunciation 4

From PAUL MARTIN—Baghdad, July 1

The Baathist regime in Iraq may present Dr. Abdul Rahman al-Bazzaz, the former Prime Minister who was arrested nine months ago, before television audiences on the first anniversary of the July 17 revolution which swept it to power. The appearance would be part of the regime's campaign to discredit those who oppose it.

The Baathists have already promised that Dr. al-Bazzaz is to appear in a series of television "spy confessions" and there is a growing feeling among those close to the regime that the day marking the first year of rule would be a fitting occasion to attempt a public denunciation.

Already witnesses in the now familiar television "confessions" have implicated Dr. al-Bazzaz and just about every other prominent Iraq political figure (including the late President Abdul Salaam Aref) in alleged espionage activities for the American Central Intelligence Agency.

Since Dr. al-Bazzaz, a highly respected political and academic figure, was arrested with Major-General Abdul Aziz al-Ukaily, a former Defence Minister also known for his right-wing views, the regime has kept their whereabouts a close secret.

In the case of Dr. al-Bazzaz, there are growing fears that he has been subjected to severe ill-treatment and that he is gravely ill. Indeed, so persistent have such rumours been (and the Baath has no one but itself to blame for this), many believe he may be dead.

Because political prisoners are frequently moved from one prison to another, lines of communication are difficult to estab-

lish. Although families are permitted to replenish supplies of laundry, letters or any other form of contact is prevented.

At first Dr. al-Bazzaz and General al-Ukaily, who were the first prominent political figures to be rounded up by the regime before the spy trials began, were accused of being implicated in espionage for Israel and the C.I.A. However, as not even bitter enemies would believe two men hitherto known for their Arab nationalist feelings would be part of an Israel conspiracy, it was later announced that their links with Israel were tenuous and that they had in fact worked for the C.I.A.

As both men have a following, Dr. al-Bazzaz among the middle class intellectuals, and General al-Ukaily with the Army, the regime is finding that although it was able to make some political capital out of the spy trials and 36 executions to date, such flimsy evidence that has so far been produced is unlikely to have the same effect with regard to better known personalities who had raised the Arab banner long before the Baath.

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REVOLUTIONARY COURT. Iraq's Revolutionary Court has been reorganized, according to an announcement in Baghdad quoted by MEN. Col. Ali Hadi Witwet remained the President of the Court. A civilian, Mohammed Fadel, Director of Public Relations at the Revolution Command Council, was appointed in the three-man court. The third member is Major Ali Ihsan Sheita. Major Ragheb Fakhry is the prosecutor.

Sheita and Fakhry were also members of the previous Court, which has tried the numerous espionage cases in Iraq since the present regime came to power. The reorganization of the court appeared to be in preparation for the start of new trials, this time involving alleged CIA spies.

Meanwhile, the Government in Baghdad has impounded the movable and immovable property of Al Mahdi Al Hakim, son of Al Moujtahed Al Hakim, the spiritual leader of the Shia community in Iraq. Al Mahdi had been mentioned in connection with alleged CIA activity in Iraq. NEQ 1/1

### SITUATION BETWEEN OPTIMISM AND PESSIMISM

Lebanon

#### President Helou's Views On Crisis Widely Covered

The Lebanese situation continued to swing between optimism and pessimism. Optimism came yesterday from Premier-designate Rashid Karami in a statement after meeting with President Charles Helou.

He declared that he hopes to come out with a solution to the crisis this week, during which names of members of the projected government would be considered.

However, this did not seem to be the opinion of several other leaders, and a number of newspapers --especially following more statements by the Palestinian commandos denying that they will pull out of Lebanon. Highlighted by most newspapers here today is an AFP dispatch from Kuwait quoting a visiting member of the PLO Executive Committee, Khalid Al Hassan, as declaring: "The commandos are staying in all the Arab countries, including Lebanon, as long as Israel continued to occupy our country and parts of territory of other Arab countries."

"Voice of Al Asifa", Fatah's radio from Cairo, charged last night that "the rumour about withdrawal from Lebanon of the commandos was started by counter-revolutionaries in agreement with the U.S. Embassy in Lebanon."

Commandos Hit. In its editorial this morning, AL AMAL, organ of the Phalangist Party, hit out at the commandos for denying that they were withdrawing from Lebanon. In fact, a Phalangist Deputy, Mr Edmund Rizk, was quoted by AL JARIDA and others today that the commandos in South Lebanon have been bringing in heavy equipment, similar to that used by regular armies.

Deputy Raymond Edde, of the Tripartite Alliance, said in a statement published in AL NAHAR that the commandos have not withdrawn from Lebanon "either partially or totally." He said that those responsible for bringing in the commandos in the first place must be made to account for their action.

Helou's Views Meanwhile, most newspapers today gave leading attention to President Helou's views on the crisis. Strong attack on these views came this morning from leftist AL MOHARRER, which supports leftist leader Kamal Jumblat. The views, the paper said, escalate the Lebanese crisis. [See views on following page].



Today's Main News And Trends, Cont'd

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was mentioned in Amman that Al Fatah was undertaking this campaign. The story in AL HAWADITH reported an incident which took place recently in the Mount Hussein area in Amman. Shooting was heard early in the morning after which it was reported that the arms cache of one of the smaller commando groups disappeared. The report said that leaders of these splinter commando groups were getting together to discuss the new situation, and that a delegation of them has called at the offices of the Armed Struggle Command in Amman.

FAMILY OF LATE PRESIDENT CHALLENGES CHARGE  
MORE IMPLICATIONS MADE IN ALLEGED CIA ACTIVITY

Iraq,  
Espionage

The Aref Family, of the late Iraqi President Abdel Salam Aref, has challenged the alleged evidence produced by the Baathist regime in Baghdad to implicate the dead President, who was killed in a helicopter crash in southern Iraq in 1966, in espionage activity for CIA. The "evidence" was a photo showing Aref sitting in a cafe in Baghdad with several Iraqis, including one woman who was identified by the Iraqi authorities as the wife of captain Mounir Rofa, the Iraqi Air Force officer who defected to Israel in 1966 with his MIG-21.

The challenge made by the Aref family was reported today by Beirut's weekly AL HAWADITH, pro-UAR. The weekly said that the woman in the photo was not Rofa's wife, but the daughter of the Czech Commercial Attache in Baghdad in 1964, and who used to date Abdullah Al Bokhari, executed as an American and Israeli spy in Baghdad in May. Bokhari was in the same picture with Aref and the woman in question. The Aref family, according to AL HAWADITH, said that the photo in question was taken in a garden cafe in Baghdad, at the time the President was spending a quiet day there. The former President, the Aref explanation said, went around talking to the people in the cafe and posed for pictures with them. The Aref family, according to AL HAWADITH, challenged the Iraqi regime to have Mrs. Rofa, who is still in Iraq, to appear on Iraqi television.

MORE IMPLICATIONS. At this time, more implications have been made in Baghdad regarding alleged CIA activity:

REGIONAL reported that an Iraqi lawyer has claimed that he worked for the U.S. CIA between 1960 and 1961 with an American, identified as Paul Parker, a former representative of Bank of America in Beirut.

The lawyer, Zaki Abdel Wahhab, was quoted by Baghdad Radio as having revealed this in an interview with Baghdad television. Abdel Wahhab, who was one of the legal consultants for the Iraqi millionaire Lutfi Al Obeidi, who was implicated earlier as the head of the network working for CIA, said that before the July 14th, 1958, revolution, which overthrew the Monarchy, he had worked for two years with the British intelligence through his brother, Atta, who was then working as Secretary to the then Iraqi Regent, Abdul Illah. He said that he had been paid for information about national and political tendencies.

Comment. AL HAWADITH today printed a long article by leftist writer Amin Awar urging the Iraqi regime to try to postpone internal problems, in order to devote more time to the confrontation with Israel. The writer also wondered why the Iraqi regime is concentrating only on U.S. espionage in Iraq and allegedly neglecting alleged British spying activity in that Arab country. He said that the two Baathist regimes in Iraq and Syria should rise to the level of the battle in which the Arab nation is engaged today.



Today's Main News and Trends, Cont'd.

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AS NEW MOSLEM SHIA PROTESTS IN IRAQ ARE  
REPORTED, EMBASSY HERE DENIES CLAIMS

Iraq

Private dispatch from Baghdad carried by today's right-wing daily AL HAYAT of Beirut claimed that Moujtahed Mohsin Al Hakim, spiritual leader of the large Moslem Shia community in Iraq, has refused Iraqi President Amed Hassan Al Bakr's invitation to a meeting following the recent events in southern Iraq. The paper said that President Bakr had summoned Moujtahed Al Hakim to a meeting with the aim of reducing "tension that emerged after demonstrations in the districts of Basra, Diwaniya and Nasseriya where several persons were killed." It claimed that the Mayyah tribes in the Kut region had staged a sit-in strike for three days in protest against the accusations made against Mahdi Al Hakim, son of Moujtahed Al Hakim, that he was involved in espionage activities.

[It will be recalled that Mahdi Al Hakim's name was mentioned by Midhat Haj Sirri, who is now being detained on charges of serving the American Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). Haj Sirri was interviewed earlier this month on Baghdad radio and television where he told the Iraqi public the story of his service with the CIA. Subsequently, the Iraqi authorities ordered the arrest of Mahdi Al Hakim and the confiscation of his movable and immovable property. There have been no reports yet that Mahdi has been arrested. He is said to be still at large.]

Memorandum. Meanwhile, AL HAYAT carried what it described as text of a memorandum submitted by religious leaders of the city of Kerbalaa, the holy city of the Moslem Shia, to President Ahmed Hassan Al Bakr voicing their grievances. The memo demanded an immediate explanation of the arrest of a prominent Shia leader and scholar, Mr. Hassan Shirazi. It said that the manner in which Shirazi was arrested "did not have a precedent", because he was allegedly arrested as he was walking in a Kerbalaa street. His release was also demanded. The memo criticized the authorities for levelling a charge of espionage against Mahdi Al Hakim and the charge of conspiracy against Shirazi. There were other complaints which were included in the memo.

Embassy Denies. The Iraqi Embassy in Beirut yesterday issued a statement to the press denying allegations of anti-Shia measures in Iraq. This was the second time such a statement is issued in a fortnight. It described these allegations as completely unfounded and invited all "those concerned" to meet with the Iraqi authorities to obtain the truth.

YEMEN'S IRYANI BEGINS VISIT TO ETHIOPIA

Yemen

The Chairman of the Yemeni Republican Council, Qadi Abdel Rahman Iryani, left Sanaa yesterday at the head of an official delegation for Addis Ababa on an official visit to Ethiopia at the invitation of Emperor Haile Selassie, according to the Egyptian news agency MEN.

Iryani said before his departure from Sanaa that the purpose of the visit was to consolidate relations between Yemen and Ethiopia where about 30,000 Yemenis are living. He added that a scheduled visit to Ethiopia by Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban has now been postponed. The visit was due to take place at the same time Iryani and his delegation were visiting Ethiopia.

The Yemeni delegation, according to MEN, includes, other than Iryani, three Ministers of the government of Premier Hassan Al Amri, and a number of senior officials. The Ministers are in charge of foreign affairs, economy and information.

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**Guard C-in-C Visits Riyadh**

The Commander of Bahrain's National Guard, Crown Prince Shaikh Hamad Ben Isa al-Khalifa, arrived in Riyadh on 24 May for a three-day official visit at the invitation of his Saudi Arabian counterpart. The delegation accompanying him included the Director of Agriculture and the Director-General of Customs (See *SAUDI ARABIA*).

**ECONOMIC: Finance 1969 Budget**

Revenue and expenditure in Bahrain's 1969 budget are balanced at BD 14.75 million, compared with BD 12.48 million in 1968, it was reported on 23 May.

**Dubai****POLITICAL: Foreign Ruler's Son Visits Iran**

The Ruler of Dubai's eldest son, Shaikh Maktoum Ben Rashid, left Dubai on 19 May for a short official visit to Iran. The visit had been due to start on 17 May, but was postponed because of an extended provincial tour by the Shah.

**ECONOMIC: Oil & Gas Oil Production Imminent**

The US Continental Oil Company revealed at a press conference in London on 29 May that oil production in Dubai would start 'in the next 30-60 days'. Initially production would be at the rate of 30,000 to 40,000 barrels a day; this would rise to some 50,000-60,000 barrels a day by the end of 1969 and reach some 100,000 barrels a day by early 1970. Dubai's oil revenue in 1970, the first full year of production, could be as high as £12 million, according to the Ruler's Director of Affairs and Petroleum Affairs, Mahdi al-Tajir.

*Production will be from the offshore Fateh field, in a concession shared by Conoco and Dubai Marine Areas (a consortium of British Petroleum, Compagnie Francaise des Petroles, Deutsche Erdoel and Dubai Sun Oil). Conoco subsidiary Dubai Petroleum is the operating company. No oil has yet been found on land in Dubai.*

**Public Works Harbour Contract Ratified**

The harbour expansion agreement with British contractors Richard Costain (ARR 27) was ratified by the Ruler, Shaikh Rashid Ben Said al-Maktoum, on 26 May. On 29 May it was announced that the expansion project would be financed by two British banks: Lloyds Bank would lend £16.8 million, repayable bi-annually until 1978 and backed by Britain's official Export Credits Guarantee Department, and further finance would come from the British Bank of the Middle East, which has acted as the Ruler's banker for several years.

**Muscat & Oman****POLITICAL: Defence 'Front Steps Up Operations'**

The Popular Front for the Liberation of the Occupied Arabian Gulf (the old Dhofar Liberation Front) claimed in Aden on 19 May that it had killed or wounded 79 troops of the Sultan of Muscat & Oman in battles between 1 and 4 May. The communique also claimed that a military vehicle had been destroyed by a mine on the road between Muscat and the Salalah air base on 2 May, *Associated Press* reported.

The *New York Times* reported on 30 May that the Front had been stepping up its operations against the Sultanate. Successes claimed by the Front, the paper said, included the assassination of five men working for the Sultan's intelligence service and assaults on four others as a warning against harassment of the Front's supporters. The Front also claimed to have killed or wounded 98 Britons and soldiers of the Sultan, most of them from Baluchistan.

The Front's leader, 30-year-old Omani Talal Saad, was reported as saying in an interview that his commandos numbered several hundred, augmented by 'thousands of tribesmen when necessary'.

**Umm al-Qaiwain****ECONOMIC: Oil & Gas Shell Gets Concession**

Umm al-Qaiwain awarded an oil exploration and exploitation concession to Shell Hydrocarbons NV, a member of the Royal Dutch-Shell group, on 29 May. The concession agreement covers the state's onshore area of 230 square miles and will run for 40 years. Royalties, at 12½ per cent of full posted prices of crude oil, are expected to bring Umm al-Qaiwain at least £4.1 million a year.

*The terms seem generous to the state, which has a population estimated at not more than six thousand. But the agreement also increases Shell's importance in this part of the peninsula: it has interests in Muscat & Oman and Fujairah and obtained 40-year concessions in Sharjah on 12 January (ARR 3) and Ras al-Khaimah on 15 March (ARR 115).*

**IRAQ****NEQ 1/1****POLITICAL: Internal Free Land for Peasants**

Peasants will no longer be required to pay for land made available to them by the government, it was stated in a decree announced on 20 May by President Bakr.

The decree followed an announcement on 17 May that compensation for lands sequestered by the government under the 1958 Agrarian Reform Law had been ended. In a speech that day President Bakr said such payments implied 'recognition of the rights of feudal lords to lands which they had seized by force'.

**'Spy Ring' Discovered**

President Bakr said in a speech on 20 May that a number of former ministers and directors of ministries were among 'imperialist agents and members of spy networks' who had recently been arrested. No names were given, but on 19 May the Revolutionary Command Council issued a decree impounding the property of 25 persons. Among them were a former Minister of Foreign Affairs (under President Abd-al-Rahman Arif) Ismail Khairallah; a former Minister of Finance, Abd-al-Razzak Assouad; Sadiq Shanshal, founder of the Istiqlal (Independence) Party and General Rashid Moleh, former military governor of Baghdad.

The Syrian news agency, *SANA*, reported on 21 May that Midhat al-Haj Sirri, a former Mayor of Baghdad described in a government statement on 21 May as 'the active leader of . . . a new espionage ring', had also been arrested.

The (London) *Observer* said on 24 May that the wave of arrests was 'a clear sign that the Baath Party felt itself more threatened . . . than it has been since coming to power'.

**More Property Impounded**

It was announced on 28 May that the property of 46 persons would be impounded. The decision affects several former Army officers, the Deputy Mayor of Baghdad, Mohammed Shaikh Latif; a former manager of the Rafidain Bank, Zaki Abd-al-Wahhab; and three figures prominent in Iraqi journalism: Abd-al-Aziz Barakat (former President of the Journalists' Association); Abdullah Khayyat (former press director at the Foreign Ministry) and Noman al-Aani (owner of the now-defunct newspaper, *Al-Arab*).

**Death of Bazzaz Denied**

The Minister of Youth Affairs, Shafiq Kamali, 'categorically denied' reports that former Prime Minister Abd-al-Rahman Bazzaz had died in prison, in a statement made on 27 May.

*Bazzaz, who was Prime Minister from 21 September 1965 until shortly after the abortive Razzaq coup in June 1966 (ARR 66/134), was arrested on 18 December 1968 (ARR 68/412). The Kuwait daily Al-Rai Al-Aam reported on 25 May that Bazzaz had 'died mysteriously'.*



### Seven Sentenced in Absence

*Baghdad Radio* reported on 17 May that seven Iraqis had been sentenced to death in their absence for 'conspiring against the revolution'. Among them were two soldiers, Yousif Fathalla and Nourzad Hussein.

*Reuter* reported that most of those sentenced were thought to be Kurds.

### New District Created in North

It was announced on 28 May that the Dahouk sub-district (in Mosul) would be given full district (wilaya) status, raising to 15 the number of administrative divisions in Iraq.

An official announcement said the action was taken 'in conformity . . . with plans for administrative reform'. In an article on 29 May the pro-government newspaper *Al-Nour* described the move as 'a good step toward solving the Kurdish problem'.

### Kurds 'Entitled . . . to National Ambitions'

The Commander of the Baghdad Garrison, Brigadier Saadoun Ghaidan, said on 23 May that the Kurdish people had 'national ambitions . . . to whose realisation they are entitled'. Ghaidan was speaking in Arbil, in the course of a five-day tour of the North which ended on 25 May.

### 'Full-Scale Fighting' Resumed

The Beirut news letter *Arab World* reported on 20 May that 'full-scale fighting' between Kurdish forces under Mulla Mustafa Barzani and Iraqi troops had been resumed. The report said that two towns in Suleimaniyah, Penjuin and Chawarta, had fallen to the Kurds and that a third, Kalaat Dizah, was under siege.

### Restrictions on Jews Relaxed

It was announced on 29 May that two laws restricting the activity of Iraqi Jews had been repealed. The announcement, made over *Baghdad Radio*, gave no details but said that both laws had been issued after the 1967 June War.

*There are some 3,000 Jews living in Iraq.*

### Nasrat's Killer Sentenced

The High Criminal Court of Karkh on 26 May sentenced Khodeir Mazkhour, an Iraqi Army private, to death for the murder of Colonel Abd-al-Mustafa Nasrat.

*Nasrat, a prominent Baathist who took part in the coup which in 1963 overthrew the Qassem regime, died in January 'under mysterious circumstances' (ARR 28). The Syrian Baath Party accused the Baghdad regime of assassinating him.*

### Defence

### Saudi Minister's Visit

The Saudi Arabian Minister of Defence, Emir Sultan bin Abd-al-Aziz, left Baghdad on 22 May after a five-day official visit (See *SAUDI ARABIA*).

### Mission to Moscow

An Iraqi military delegation led by the Minister of Defence and Deputy Premier, Air Marshal Hardan Takriti, arrived in Moscow on 26 May at the start of an official visit. *Baghdad Radio* reported on 30 May that Soviet officials had promised to give Iraq 'complete support' and quoted them as saying 'the USSR would not stand idle in case of any aggression against Iraq'.

### Foreign Affairs

### Shatt al-Arab Tension Lessens

A West German cargo ship, the *Gema*, sailed through the Shatt al-Arab on 17 May without escort. It was the first ship to do so since before the outbreak of the dispute with Iran over navigation in the estuary (ARR 160). Observers said the action represented a substantial lessening of the tension between the two countries.

### Iran Arrests 'Spies'

It was announced in Tehran on 22 May that a number of Iraqi 'spies and saboteurs' had been arrested in Iran. Iranian Government sources alleged that they had been sent along with Iranian citizens who had been deported from Iraq (ARR 180).

On 27 May the Iranian Government asked the United Nations to open an enquiry into 'the sufferings inflicted on innocent Iranian nationals' living in Iraq.

### Ambassador to Pakistan Recalled

It was announced on 21 May that the Iraqi Ambassador to Pakistan, Abd-al-Kader Gailani, had been recalled 'for consultation . . . on Pakistan's attitude towards the (Shatt al-Arab) dispute'.

*In a speech on 14 May, the new Pakistani Head of State, General Yahya Khan, said the principle of fixing state boundaries in the middle of a river was 'generally accepted' and therefore merited 'serious consideration . . . in the present circumstances'. Pakistan's 'full understanding' of the Iranian position in the dispute was affirmed in a joint communique issued on 16 May at the end of an official three-day visit to Pakistan by the Iranian Prime Minister, Abbas Hoveida.*

*The 1937 treaty between Iraq and Iran fixes Iraq's boundary—with certain exceptions—as running along the low-water line on the Iranian (east) side of the estuary.*

### Aflaq Visits Iraq

*Baghdad Radio* reported on 25 May that Michel Aflaq, 'Secretary-General of the National Command of the Baath Party', had arrived in Baghdad. In a speech on 29 May Aflaq said he was very pleased with the 'maturity' of the Iraqi revolution, 'in respect of both its leadership and its masses'.

*Aflaq, one of the founders of the Baath Party, has been living in exile (latterly in Brazil) off and on since the anti-Baath coup carried out in November 1963 by General Abd-al-Salam Arif.*

*The significance to be attached to his title—the same as that given to the Syrian Head of State, Nurredin al-Atassi—is unclear. The National Command is the Pan-Arab leadership of the Baath Party.*

### Jordanian Prime Minister's Visit

The Jordanian Prime Minister, Abd-al-Moneim Rifai, made brief visits to Iraq on 20 and 30-31 May for talks with President Ahmed Hasan Bakr and ministers (See *JORDAN*).

An envoy from the Amir of Kuwait arrived in Baghdad on 26 May with a message for President Bakr. Kuwaiti press reports suggested that the message contained an offer to mediate in the Shatt al-Arab dispute.

### Messages to Arab Leaders

The *Iraqi News Agency* announced on 25 May that President Bakr would send messages 'to all Arab kings and heads of state'. The agency said the messages would deal with 'the evolution of the situation in the Arab World'.

Three ministers undertook to deliver the messages: Shafiq Kamali, Minister of Youth Affairs (to Damascus, Beirut and Amman); Dr. Ahmad Jawari, Minister of Education (to Cairo and Tripoli) and Dr. Abdullah Khudair, Minister of Unity Affairs (to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Yemen and Southern Yemen). The envoys left on 25 May.

Speaking at Baghdad Airport, Khudair said his mission dealt with 'general Arab problems and in particular with the Iraqi-Iranian crisis provoked by Tehran'.

### Envoy from New Sudanese Government

Mustafa Makkawi, Minister of Planning in the new Sudanese Government (See *SUDAN*), left Baghdad on 31 May at the end of a three-day visit. He said he had received assurances that the Iraqi Government would give his regime 'any aid . . . it might need'.

### Diplomatic Appointments

The new Ceylonese Ambassador, Razik Farid, presented his credentials to President Bakr on 19 May.

The new Swedish Ambassador Gunnar Jerring, presented his credentials to President Bakr on 26 May.

*The new Swedish envoy is not related to the UN Special Envoy to the Middle East, Gunnar Jarring.*

### ECONOMIC: General 1969-70 Budget Approved

The largest-ever Iraqi general budget—with expenditure



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# Iraq rulers use spy charges to discredit opposition

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which it has implanted in those outside its ranks is not matched by a faith in either its motives or methods.

The most that the country's middle class and intellectuals can fairly grant the regime, in its attempts to label a group largely of Arab nationalist conviction as C.I.A. spies, is that the slim evidence so far presented by "professed agents" in the television confessions confirms an already accepted theory that a good deal of corruption soiled the dealings of previous regimes. But, short of wild accusations, nothing points to the ubiquitous hands of American intelligence.

Although, with an energetic collection of Ministers whose average age is only 40 and whose approach to the country's administrative business is extremely impressive, the regime is undoubtedly sincere in its attempts to improve Iraq's ills, its tactics have served only to further isolate it from those from outside the Baathist fold.

Indeed, pockets of opposition are known to have developed secretly within the ranks of the military, from where a move to restore the old role of the military in politics might be expected to come, and a new threat—that of the unknown opposition—has begun to emerge. However, with a force of 15,000 on the Jordan-Israel front and two divisions engaged in intermittent but often heavy fighting with the Kurds in the north, this could not be regarded as very serious.

To a certain extent the regime has learnt a lesson, for the public hangings, especially in regard to the 11 Jews, involved an act which did more damage to the Iraq and Arab reputation than anything else since the war of June, 1967. There is also evidence that some of the restrictions placed on the Jewish community at the time of the Israel spy accusations have been eased.

In fact, the regime appears to be making an attempt to undo some of the damage it caused, and it recently repealed two laws applied to Jews issued in 1964 and 1967. These imposed financial restrictions on Jews who had lost their Iraq nationality.

Externally the regime appears to have bitten off more than it can chew with the more recent addition of Iran to its list of foes. In spite of recent declarations that it hopes for friendlier relations with the Shah in the future, the addition of Al-Mahdi Al-Hakim, the son of Moujtahed Al-Hakim, the spiritual leader of Iraq's Shia community, to the list of those accused of complicity with the C.I.A. cannot be seen as a step in that direction.

The Shia, who inhabit the south, have a traditional resentment of the central Government and could present a problem for the regime, especially if they can count on Iran's guiding hand. Moreover, the call for Al-Mahdi's arrest, which has so far been resisted by the Shia community, and the friction that this has created, have turned Shia guns in other parts of the Arab world against Baghdad.

All of this has an adverse effect on the very impressive credit side of the regime's ledger. Certainly it has already done much to tighten up the administrative machinery and, particularly in the fields of planning and agriculture, has shown that its approach to the task at hand is both far-sighted and efficient in application.

It has been quick to realize the dependence of the economy on oil revenues—at present they make up 80 per cent or more of government earnings—in a country where agriculture should be shouldering a bigger load than it is at present doing, especially when at least 60 per cent of the population of 8,200,000 derives its income from agricultural production.



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## Britain dragging feet, says Iraq

By IAN COLVIN in Baghdad

**F**IELD MARSHAL Ahmed Hassan Al Bakr, President and Prime Minister of the Baathist regime in Iraq, yesterday reproached Britain with dragging her feet when there were good chances of better relations with Arab states.

In an exclusive interview with me yesterday he said that a visit by a British Minister might serve to clear up misunderstandings, though Iraq's relations with all countries were dependent firstly on their attitude to the Palestine problem.

Speaking in his office at the Presidential Palace, President Al Bakr also defended his Government's programme of mass arrests and television confessions by its opponents.

President Al Bakr has not met a British journalist since his country roused a storm of criticism in January by a public display of bodies hanged after spy trials.

### Without rhetoric

A man of 55, he wears a brown lounge suit and talks without rhetoric or gestures. This former brigadier, whose schemes brought the Baathists to the top in the struggle for power, would pass quite easily in an armchair of the Cavalry Club as a British senior officer nearing retirement age.

He seems to have aged during the past year of office. (He ousted President Aref in July 1968). He has a slight resemblance to Gen. Franco, and a quiet reflective manner.

I drew his attention to frequent Iraqi Press references to "imperialist" Britain and asked how official relations could be improved.

### With hardliners

"The future of these relations and the exchange of visits requires a clarification of the British attitude on Palestine," he said.

On Palestine Iraq stands with the hardliners, Sudan and Algeria. He had most praise for Gen. de Gaulle's policy in the Middle East, and he thought that Britain ought to denounce the state of Israel.

"Britain should not mistake us for a Communist state," he said. "But Russia offers us long-term credits, low interest rates and quick deliveries of arms and industrial equipment.

"When the people know this and hear also that Britain is holding back some oil royalties due to us, that forms public opinion here in favour of Russia."

On Persia's demonstrative abrogation of the 1937 pilotage and demarcation treaty in the Shatt el Arab, President Al Bakr is surprisingly mild.

"Relations exist with Persia and there is no rupture," he said. "We are willing to foster friendly relations. We are sure that the state of tension will disappear as soon as Persia refrains from the show of force in violation of international law."

He said the Persian Government has given arms, ammunition and training facilities to the Kurdish rebels "and even paid Persian Kurds to fight for the rebel leader, Barazani."

On British plans for withdrawal from the Persian Gulf in 1971 President Al-Bakr has mild praise. "The decision to withdraw from the (Arab) Gulf came late," he said.

"The British presence has caused an abnormal situation and retarded the aspirations of the Arab people of that area."

I asked if his opponents were so strictly imprisoned that even their families did not know where they were.

"They cannot write letters," he said. "That is a security measure, but relatives can fetch their laundry and bring clean clothes."

He said Mr. Nasr el Hani, former Foreign Minister, who was found dead in a Baghdad ditch last November, was killed "by our enemies to discredit the Baathist Government."

Police investigations were continuing, but these took second place to the hunt for Israeli and American Central Intelligence Agency men.

Pa  
Iraq internal me

AMM

317



RESTRICTED

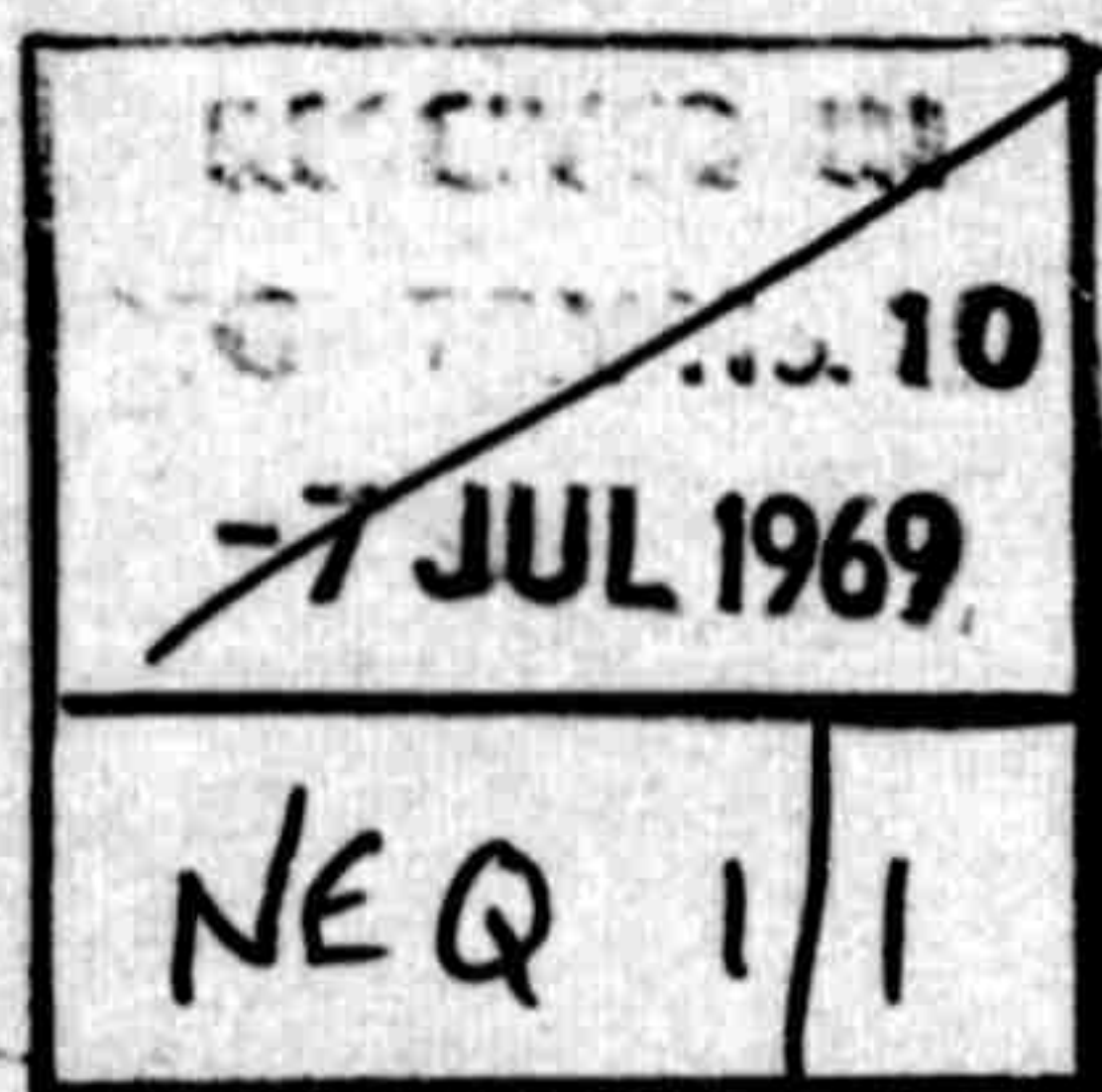
84



British Embassy,  
BAGHDAD.

27 June, 1969.

(1/3)



Dear Hinchcliffe,

Iraq Internal

In a further television interview broadcast yesterday reference was finally made to British espionage activities in Iraq. Sayid Zaki Abdul Wahab confessed to working for British Intelligence between 1956 and 1958, and later for the C.I.A. The reference to British Intelligence was brief and came early in the interview. Sayid Wahab confessed to passing information to Abdulilah through his brother who was Abdulilah's secretary. The charge hinges on the claim (unsupported by any evidence) that Abdulilah was a British agent. The information passed was mainly about the membership and policies of the Congress party in Iraq although mention was made of a possible western intervention in Syria. The remainder of this long interview was taken up with revelations of C.I.A. activities on very much the same lines as previous confessions.

2. It is difficult to know what to make of our sudden, if not unexpected, involvement. The allegations do not carry much conviction; it all happened a long time ago and at a time when we were, in any case, known to be deeply involved with the then régime. The only editorial comment on the interview so far has made no mention of us. The most pessimistic interpretation of this would be that the authorities have deliberately implicated us as a warning that we are not immune from attack and should watch our behaviour. More optimistically this may simply be an attempt to allay suspicions that the lack of mention of our involvement up to now had been deliberate and that we were therefore in some way supporting this régime.

Yours ever

Michael Jenner.  
(M. K. Jenner)

P. R. M. Hinchcliffe, Esq.,  
Near Eastern Department,  
F.C.O.

leg-spy  
RMM  
4/7

RESTRICTED



RESTRICTED

(5)

British Embassy,  
BAGHDAD.

RECEIVED IN REGISTRY No. 10 -7 JUL 1969 NEQ 5/3
--

(5/11)

5 27 June, 1969.

7 Mr. [Signature] 6  
Mr. [Signature] 4.7

Copy for NEQ 1/1

Dr. Salah Kubba

See also (5) + (6)

(4)

Will you please refer to my letter 5/11 of 25 February about the replacement of Dr. Salah Kubba as Governor of the Central Bank by Dr. Hassan Zalzal.

2. You may like to know that it was announced on 22 June that the Revolutionary Command Council has decided to seize the movable and immovable property of Dr. Salah Kubba together with that of Abdul Rahman al-Jalili and Mehdi Sayid Muhsin al-Hakim. Abdul Rahman al-Jalili is the Plessey agent and the last is the son of the eminent Shia leader of Kerbala.

3. The action against Saleh Kubba appears to be a sequel to the "confession" on television of Major General Rashid Muslih al-Tikriti, former Military Governor of Baghdad and Minister of the Interior, about his involvement with the C.I.A. In his television appearance on 17 June he stated that Salah Kubba had attended a meeting in the house of one Lutfi al-Ubaidi with a reputed American C.I.A. agent, Robert Anderson, who was in Baghdad in 1967 in an effort to obtain the sulphur concession for an American firm. Other people who were alleged to have been there were Shukri Saleh Zaki, Yousif al-Mi'mar, Abdul Aziz al-Uqaili and Abdul Rahman al-Jalili.

4. The Central Bank also featured in the "confession" on the television of Dr. Yousif al-Memar who mentioned Hamid al-Sameer until recently Director-General of Research. Sameer, it was alleged, had become involved with Lutfi al-Ubaidi and the C.I.A. in Beirut.

5. There is a witch-hunt going on in Iraq at present against the C.I.A. and alleged agents and a number of distinguished people have had their names drawn in. Dr. Salah Kubba is unfortunately one of them.

(D. F. Hawley)

L. A. C. Newns, Esq.,  
C.R. & E. Department,  
Board of Trade.

c.c.  
J. P. Tripp, Esq.,  
Near Eastern Department,  
F.C.O.

T. Hallows, Esq.,  
Bank of England,  
Threadneedle Street.

Copy in

Int. Internal

Gen P.A.

7/7  
PMA 7/7

RESTRICTED



RESTRICTED

86



British Embassy,  
BAGHDAD.

1 July, 1969.

*Dear Hinchcliffe,*

The Shi'a

I enclose a translation of a circular letter received at this Embassy through the open post. It is signed by Muhsin al Hakim (Ayatullah) the leader of the Shi'a sect in Iraq. We have no news of how widely this letter has been circulated.

*Yours ever*  
*Michael Jenner*  
(M. K. Jenner)

P. R. M. Hinchcliffe, Esq.,  
Near Eastern Department,  
F.C.O.

c.c.

Chancery  
Tehran  
Beirut

*Pa PAMM*

*8/7*

*to  
Bgs & Lu  
m*

*Iraq Internal*

*PAMM*

*7/7*

RESTRICTED



In the Name of the Almighty

The atheist Ba'athis have violated our religion and the reverence in which our religious leaders are held. This has re-opened the wounds of past calamities and has led to the repugnance of all Moslems. The insistence of the Ba'athi Government on pursuing its traditional policy of savage manslaughter, using medieval methods of torture, filling the prison cells with Moslems and lastly but not least, adopting a policy of atheism, is strong evidence that the tyrant elements are unable to administer the country.

The evil and tyrant Ba'athi Government must understand that history will place on record its inhuman activities inconsistent as they are with religious values, and that the Islamic peoples will never forget the crimes committed by this tyrant element however long it may be. We pray the Almighty to put an end to the hardships being suffered by the Moslem people of Iraq.

30 Rabi' Al Awwal 1389

(Signed and Sealed):

15 June 1969

Muhsin al Hakim



~~Mr A. Ford~~ 8/7

NEQ 1/1

You took account of this  
in preparing the submission on  
General Takenti.

I imagine that Bozzy  
has been sent on tour <sup>because</sup> ~~as~~ ~~as~~ they  
Iraqis failed to "persuade" him  
to confess his sins on T.V.

We can now expect continued  
Press comment especially in the Times,  
Telegraph & Evening Standard!

AMH:mlb

8/7

Regula PWW  
9/7



NNNN  
CGA017  
CK 1100

*A. copy this with res  
to Mr. Huchcliffe  
N. Eastern*

CGA018 EPB977  
1102 : BAZZAZ:

BEIRUT, JULY 8, REUTER - DR. ABDEL-RAHMAN AL-BAZZAZ, A FORMER IRAQI PREMIER, HAS BEEN SENT FOR TRIAL BY THE REVOLUTIONARY COURT WITH 19 OTHER MEN ON CHARGES OF CONSPIRING AGAINST THE REGIME, BAGHDAD RADIO REPORTED TODAY.

QUOTING IRAQI NEWSPAPERS, THE RADIO SAID THE 19 INCLUDED RETIRED MAJOR-GENERAL IBRAHIM FEISAL AL-ANSARI, FORMER IRAQI ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF.  
MORE LWS/DS

NNNN

CGA030 EPH770

1134 : BAZZAZ 2 BEIRUT:

DR. BAZZAZ, PRIME MINISTER FROM SEPTEMBER, 1965, TO AUGUST, 1966, WAS ARRESTED LAST DECEMBER.

HIS ARREST FOLLOVED AN ALLEGATION BY AN ALLEGED IRAQI SPY, BROADCAST BY BAGHDAD RADIO, THAT THE FORMER PREMIER WAS CONNECTED WITH AN ATTEMPT TO TOPPLE THE IRAQI REGIME AS A PRELIMINARY TO MAKING PEACE WITH ISRAEL.

DR. BAZZAZ, A FORMER UNIVERSITY LECTURER, HELD VARIOUS MINISTERIAL, DIPLOMATIC, JUDICIAL AND EDUCATIONAL POSTS BEFORE BECOMING THE ONLY CIVILIAN PRIME MINISTER SINCE THE JULY, 1956, REVOLUTION WHICH TOPPLED THE IRAQI MONARCHY.  
MORE LWS/VZ

NNNN

CGA032 EPH772

1139 : BAZZAZ 3 BEIRUT:

GENERAL ANSARI WAS CHIEF OF STAFF DURING THE REGIME OF LIEUTENANT-GENERAL ABDEL-RAHMAN ARIF, WHO WAS PRESIDENT FROM APRIL, 1966, TO JULY, 1968.

HE WAS RELIEVED OF HIS POST FOR A SHORT PERIOD WHEN THE ARAB BAATH SOCIALIST PARTY CAME TO POWER IN IRAQ IN JULY LAST YEAR, BUT WAS LATER REINSTATED.

HE HELD THE POST UNTIL LAST DECEMBER WHEN HE WAS REPLACED BY LIEUTENANT-GENERAL HAMMAD SHIHAB, A MEMBER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL.  
MORE LWS/VZ

NNNN

CGA033 EPH773

1142 : BAZZAZ 4 BEIRUT:

THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT LAST MONTH PROMISED TO INTRODUCE DR. BAZZAZ ON BAGHDAD TELEVISION TO MAKE A CONFESSION ABOUT HIS ROLE IN THE ALLEGED PLOT AND DISPEL RUMOURS ABOUT HIS DEATH IN PRISON, BUT THE PROMISE HAS NOT SO FAR BEEN FULFILLED.

SINCE EARLY THIS YEAR, THE REVOLUTIONARY COURT HAS PASSED MANY DEATH SENTENCES ON ALLEGED SPIES, 36 OF WHOM, INCLUDING NINE IRAQI JEWS, HAD BEEN EXECUTED.  
REUTER LWS/VZ



## Bazzaz to go on trial in Baghdad 6

From PAUL MARTIN

Beirut, July 8

The Baathist regime in Iraq has announced that it will try Dr. Abdul-Rahman al-Bazzaz, the former Prime Minister, with 19 others on charges of conspiring to overthrow the regime. They will face the revolutionary court which since the beginning of the year has sentenced 36 people to death on charges of spying.

The announcement that Dr. al-Bazzaz is to go on trial follows an earlier declaration by the regime that he would be presented before television cameras in one of the now familiar public "confessions".

Standing trial with Dr. al-Bazzaz will be Major General Ibrahim Faisal al-Ansari, a former Chief of Staff of the Iraq armed forces. It is not clear whether Major General Abdul Aziz al-Ukaily, who served as defence minister under Dr. al-Bazzaz and who has also been held by the regime since both were arrested late last year, is also to stand trial.

It is significant that the Baath has chosen a moment near the first anniversary of the July 17 revolution which swept it to power to announce its intention to try Dr. al-Bazzaz. The charge he faces is that he and the other 19 accused took part in a plot engineered by the American Central Intelligence Agency to overthrow the regime and replace it with one prepared to make peace with Israel.

So far the only evidence presented to support this is a television confession by an accused spy who alleged that Dr. al-Bazzaz and Major-General al-Ukaily had taken part in a plot. The accusation was made after the two had been rounded up in the regime's purge of the opposition. The "spy trials" conducted by the regime so far have implicated the late President Abdul Rahman Aref, his brother who succeeded him and some 80 others with the C.I.A.

It is almost certain that the revolutionary court will begin sitting in the next week or so, and a number of people close to the regime told me in Baghdad that the al-Bazzaz trial may be televised. Dr. al-Bazzaz is the most important figure to be brought to trial by the Baathist regime so far, and there is no doubt that no effort will be spared to discredit him. Indeed, as he enjoys wide respect for his integrity and ability, his may well be regarded as the case on which the success or failure of the regime's purge of its opponents depends.

RECEIVED IN  
REGISTRY No. 10  
- 9 JUL 1969

NEQ 1/1

Pa.

Int. Internal

MM

9/7



Q.01



RECEIVED IN REGISTRY
4 JUL 1969
NEQ 1/1

Mr. Arthur

Today's Times Leader

It is just possible that the Iraqi Ambassador may ring you up to protest about the attached.

2. Dr. Bazzaz has been in detention for some months now and there was a rumour circulating in Beirut that he had died in prison. As far as we know he is still alive but we have no information as to his present state of health or as to the "treatment" that he is undergoing.

3. It is possible, judging from recent Iraqi trials by television that Dr. Bazzaz will be brought in front of the television cameras, but we have no information one way or the other that this will happen.

4. About three months ago a journalist of a Lebanese newspaper was allowed to visit Dr. Bazzaz in prison and he reported that he was in good health. Since then we have had no further news about him.

*P.R.M. Hinchcliffe*

(P.R.M. Hinchcliffe)  
3 July, 1969

The Times Foreign Editor is extremely hostile to the present Baghdad government, and Bazzaz was a personal friend of his.

*P.R.M. Hinchcliffe*

*3/7*

*per P.M.M.*

*3/7*  
*Mr. Arthur's comment is interesting. The Times has maintained a very hostile tone towards Iraq over the last six months - perhaps more so than any other paper. 3/7 P.M.M. Hinchcliffe*



ME



PRINTING HOUSE SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.4. TELEPHONE: 01-236 2000

## AN INNOCENT MAN 9

Our Middle East Correspondent reported from Baghdad yesterday that the authorities there may plan to celebrate the first anniversary of their seizure of power by putting Dr. Bazzaz on a show trial. Unfortunately this prospect is far from improbable, though it is one that almost everyone, Arabs and non-Arabs, will find wholly repulsive. Dr. Bazzaz is a former Prime Minister of Iraq and Ambassador to London. He is a man of good sense with many friends everywhere. He has always had the courage to say what he thinks, and this landed him in prison under the monarchy and again under General Kassim. He went back to Baghdad last year and was promptly thrown into prison once more, where he has remained ever since, without being seen, charged, or tried. There is more than a strong suspicion that he has been tortured, and that if he is brought before the television cameras it will be as a broken man made, like Stalin's victims, to act a part in an evil farce.

Hundreds of others less well known than Dr. Bazzaz have disappeared into

the prisons of the present Baathist regime in Iraq. A few come back; some are tried, some sentenced, some hanged. Most remain unheard of. So far as can be made out Iraq, like Stalin's Russia, is a country where anyone whose name is mentioned in almost any connexion is liable to be picked up.

It may well be that the present regime in Iraq is indifferent to what anybody thinks about it. On the other hand some of the other Arab governments may still be able to persuade it of the enormous harm which its present conduct does to the Arab cause in general. The present Baathists seem to model their judicial system on that of the infamous Colonel Mahdawi, whose show trials disgraced the post-monarchical regime in Iraq. There is, behind the present state of undeclared war in the Middle East, a hardly less keenly fought propaganda battle between Israelis and Arabs. It is things such as keeping men like Dr. Bazzaz in prison and threatening them with rigged trials on false charges which do more than anything to ensure that this part of the battle is one that the Arabs are going to lose.



TOP COPY

EN CLAIR

ROUTINE

BAGHDAD

TO FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

TELEGRAM NUMBER 645

10 JULY 1969

UNCLASSIFIED

RECEIVED IN REGISTRY No. 10 11 JUL 1969 NEQ 1/1
--

Bazzaz.

Al Thawra reports that Dr. Bazzaz has been committed to trial before the Revolutionary Court on a charge of conspiracy. The paper understands that Dr. Bazzaz may later be referred to the same Court on a charge of espionage.

2. Al Nur reports that Bazzaz will be committed for trial before the First State Security Court on a third charge of removing two names from the Boycott List. The date for this trial will be fixed after 25 July.

3. Letter follows by next bag.

MR. EVANS

FILES  
N.E.D.  
NEWS D.  
MR. ARTHUR

Re 1/1/1  
11/7



W. end Main News and Trends, Cont'd.

see 86 + below.

NEQ 1/1

CAMPAIGN AGAINST SHIITES SAID CONTINUING IN IRAQ

Iraq

The Iraqi Baathist campaign against the predominant Shiites in Iraq is apparently continuing. Beirut's right-wing AL HAYAT, Shiite, stepped up its own campaign against the Baathist regime and reported further arrests have been carried out against leading religious Shiite leaders. The paper said the Shiite community there have cabled U.N. Secretary General U Thant, asking him to intervene in the Baathist "persecution" of the Shiites in Iraq.

At Lebanese Level. AL HAYAT reported that the Baathist measures in Iraq were also the subject of discussion between the Lebanese Speaker of the House, Sabry Hamadah, a Shiite, and the newly-appointed Iraqi Ambassador to Lebanon, Mohammed Amin Yassin. The Ambassador paid a courtesy call on the House Speaker on Saturday on the occasion of his new appointment. The paper said that Hamadah brought up the subject of the Iraqi measures said taken against the Shiite community in the country, particularly the religious leaders who are situated in the holy Shiite centers, Najaf and Karbalaa, in southern Iraq. AL HAYAT said that Hamadah told the Ambassador that the Shiite community in Lebanon "demand" that an end be put to this persecution of fellow Shiites in the Arab country. Hamadah was quoted as saying that "the Arabs are in need of consolidating their fronts rather than splitting them."

AL HAYAT said the Iraqi Ambassador emphasized that the press reports about the persecution of the Shiites are not true. Yassin promised, however, to transmit Hamadah's message to his government and said he hoped to come back with an official affirmation from the Iraqi government.

Special Envoy. AL HAYAT further reported that Hamadah has recently received a special envoy from the Shiite community in Iraq, who explained to the House Speaker the real situation there. The envoy once again confirmed earlier reports that the Shiite leaders are being persecuted, according to the paper. The envoy was quoted as telling Hamadah that Sayed Mahdi Al Hakim, the son of the Shiite community leader in Iraq, who is sought by the authorities, has not escaped, but is still in Iraq. The envoy said that the Shiite leaders are ready to deliver him to the Baghdad government on condition that they are given assurances he will be given a fair and open trial. Mahdi Al Hakim has been accused of being a spy and an agent of CIA.

The Cable. In the cable that was reportedly sent to U. Thant, the Shiite community strongly rapped the Baathist government, pointing out that despite the fact that the Shiites formed 85 per cent of the total population, they were being persecuted. They called on the Secretary General to interfere directly and put an end to the persecution measures, the paper said. U Thant was asked to put an end particularly to the false accusations brought against religious leaders and other Shiites that they were spies and CIA agents.

More Arrests. AL HAYAT, in an exclusive story yesterday, reported that further arrests have been made in Iraq over the weekend. A leading Shiite leader, Sheikh Abdul Zahraa Al Kaabi, who has very strong supporters in Iraq, was now under arrest, the paper said. It pointed out that Kaabi's voice is constantly heard on Radio Baghdad and the Armed Forces radio station, for he delivers religious speeches on various occasions. The paper listed the names of eight other religious leaders who are sought by the Iraqi government. They all escaped, the paper said. AL HAYAT predicted that "unless the Iraqi government halts its persecution, serious events will take place in the country."



93

5/1

PUMA

14/7

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REGISTRY No. 10  
14 JUL 1969  
NEQ 1/1

**BRITISH EMBASSY,  
BAGHDAD.**

3 July 1969

You may like to know that the Iraqi Ministry of Economy has withdrawn the import permits on eight merchants. An announcement was made which read:

"It has been confirmed to the Ministry of Economy that the undernamed merchants have sold out the import permits issued to them in violation of standing rules and instructions. It has thus been decided to cancel their imports cards, withdraw their licences and commit them to the competent courts for trial."

2. The press report went on to say that in future any person found trafficking in import permits would be "displayed on the T.V. screen so that the people could identify the manipulations in their every day supplies". In view of the television appearances of a number of well-known people accused of working for the CIA, this could be a very real threat.

(D. F. Hawley)

**L. A. C. News, Esq.,  
C.R. & E. Department,  
Board of Trade,  
London, S.W.1.**

c.c. P. R. M. Hinchcliffe, Esq.,  
Near Eastern Department,  
F.C.O.,  
London, S.W.1.

PO ALMA

18/7

**DECLASSIFIED**



Near Eastern Department,

94

15 July, 1969

NEQ 1/1

With reference to our recent conversation I  
enclose the list of names I mentioned which have  
been taken from the Iraqi press.

(P.R.M. Hinchcliffe)

Mrs. M. Hashimi,  
28 Drax Avenue,  
London, S.W.20



NE

DAILY TELEGRAPH

95

Cutting dated 12 JUL 1969 19

RECEIVED IN  
REGISTRY No. 10  
17 JUL 1969  
NEQ 111

IRAQIS ON SPY  
CHARGES  
FACE DEATH

By Our Beirut Correspondent

Murtada Tamimi, leader of the Baath party, said yesterday that all of the more than 100 people accused of spying against Iraq will be executed if found guilty.

At a party rally, he said the spies would be shown "no mercy." Among those accused are former Prime Minister Abdel Rahman Bazzaz and 80 others accused of working for the American Central Intelligence Agency.

Bazzaz is facing three trials on charges of plotting against the State, spying and abuse of powers. Maj-Gen. Ibrahim Al-Ansari, former Chief of Staff, and 18 others are to be tried with Bazzaz on charges of taking part in a conspiracy last December to overthrow the regime.

Regis

Iraq internal

AWA

16/7



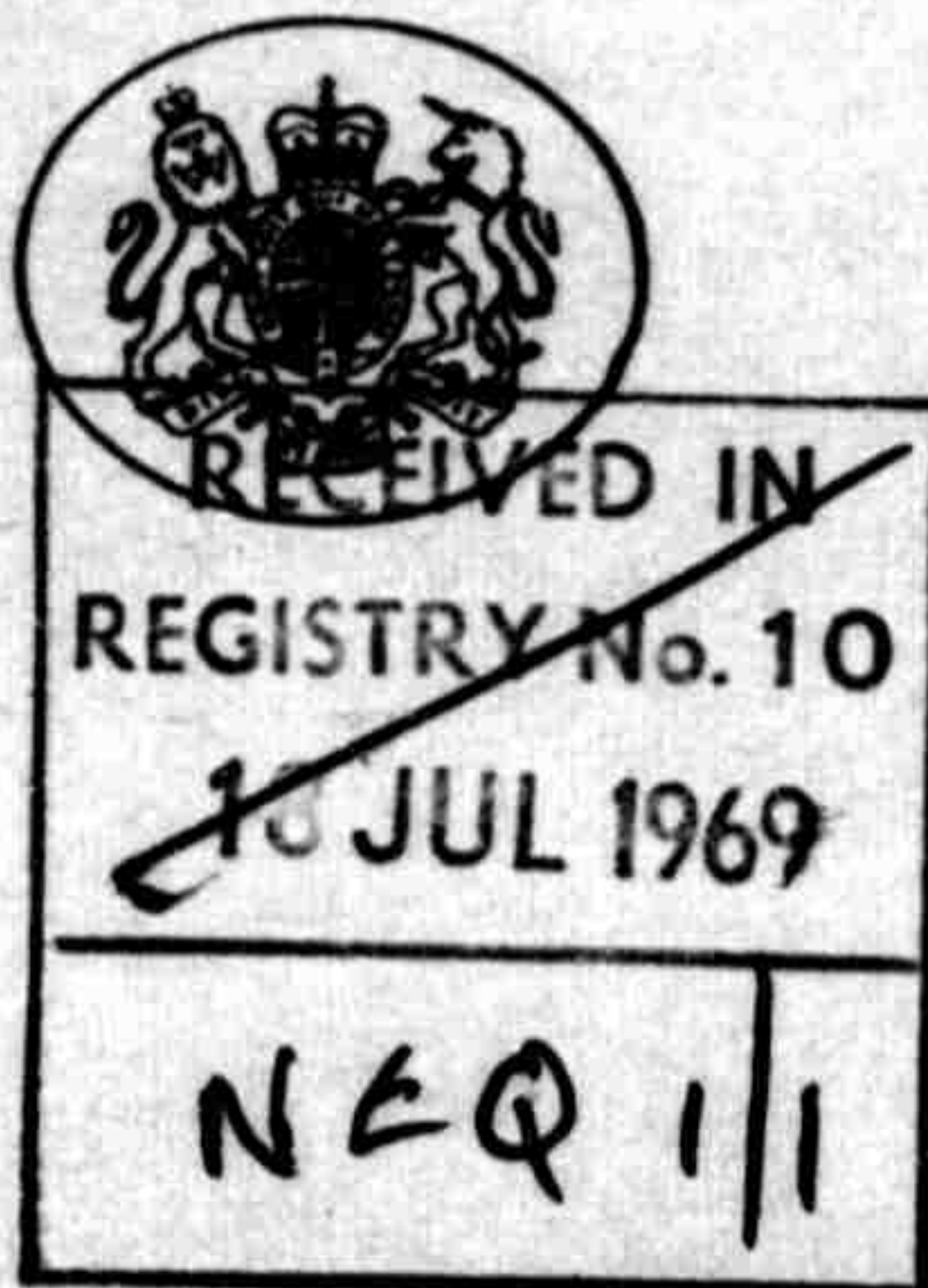
96

British Embassy,  
BAGHDAD.

11 July, 1969.

(1/3)

UNCLASSIFIED



Dear Peter,

EQ 1/18.

The Iraqi Constitution

--- Please refer to my letter 1/3 of 27 September 1968 about the new Iraqi Interim Constitution. I now enclose a translation of the second amendment to the Interim Constitution.

2. This amendment appears to be a piece of topical administrative tidying-up. Those accused of espionage activities have until now had their property attached; under the amended Article 17 this property can now be confiscated when and if they are found guilty. Likewise there is no substantial change in the amended Article 18 except that agricultural land held above the maximum limit can now legally revert to the government.

--- 3. The first amendment to the Interim Constitution, which was not reported to you at the time, was published as the Revolutionary Command Council's Decision No. 79. For the record, I now attach a copy of that Decision.

Yours sincerely  
*Beckie*  
(A. E. Saunders)

P. R. M. Hinchcliffe, Esq.,  
Near Eastern Department,  
F.C.D.

Regg. In this case we  
letter p.a.!

*[Handwritten signature]*

22/7

No, as there are no arrangements at present for the library to take non-Commonwealth legislation and constitutional documents.

Mrs. C. L. Bazell

22/7/69

Library & Records  
(Legal). Room 213  
D.S. CE)

Mrs Munkland

(Legal Section)

Librarian & Records  
SEPT )

Is there interest to  
you?

*[Handwritten signature]*

NED.

DS 133 W.



-----

Second Amendment to the Interim Constitution

In the Name of the People,

In pursuance of the provisions of Article 92 of the Interim Constitution, on the proposal of the President of the Revolutionary Command Council, and in view of the requirements of necessity, we have decided to effect the following amendment to the Interim Constitution.

Article 1

The following paragraph is added to Article 17 of the Interim Constitution as paragraph (c) thereof:-

- (c) However, persons who are proved guilty by a competent court on a charge of espionage for a foreigner or conspiracy to demolish the socialist-progressive system of government and its economic and social structure, their movable and immovable property may be confiscated and credited as a revenue to the State in accordance with the Law.

Article 2

Article 18 of the Interim Constitution is deleted and substituted by the following:

Article 18

The Law shall define the maximum limit on ownership of land, anything over and above the maximum shall revert to the State without compensation. Agricultural lands may not be acquired by non-Iraqis except in circumstances defined by Law.

Article 3

This amendment shall come into force from 15 May 1969.

Revolutionary Command Council

Salih Mahdi Ammash  
Member

Ahmad Hasan al Bakr,  
President

Hammad Shihab,  
Member

Hardan Abdul Ghaffar al Tikriti  
Member

Sadun Ghaidan,  
Member



Translation from Official Gazette No. 1705 of 12 March, 1969.

-----

Decision No. 79.

In pursuance of the provisions of Article 92 of the Interim Constitution, on the proposal of the President of the Revolutionary Command Council, and in view of the requirements of necessity, the Revolutionary Command Council decided at its meeting held on 9 March, 1969, as follows :-

To add the following paragraph to Article 44 of the Interim Constitution, which will be paragraph (8) of the Article in question :-

The Revolutionary Command Council may enact Laws and issue decisions which will have the force of a Law without reference to the Council of Ministers.

(Sgd) Ahmad Hasan al Bakr,  
President,  
Revolutionary Command Council.

-----



RESTRICTED



British Embassy,  
BAGHDAD.

RECEIVED IN  
REGISTRY No. 10

18 JUL 1969

NEQ 1/1

July, 1969.

(1/3)

*Mr. A. ... 18/7*  
*Mr. T. ... 9/7*  
*News ... 2/7*  
*1-R.D. ... 2/7*  
*then enter ... 18/7*

Dear Hinchcliffe,

Dr. Bazzaz

(91)

You will have seen from our telegram 645 of 10 July that Dr. Bazzaz is to be tried on two and possibly three separate charges. As I reported in my letter of 11 April the first charge, of conspiracy, would not involve the death penalty. The second charge of espionage would clearly, if brought, be far more serious.

--- 2. For the record, I enclose a translation of the relevant article in Al Thawra. Among those committed for trial with Dr. Bazzaz on the charge of conspiracy are Ibrahim Faisal al Ansari (Leading Personalities in Iraq No. 88) and Fadhil Mohammad Ali, former chief A.D.C. to Abdul Rahman 'Arif. A further twenty-five persons have been released for lack of evidence. None of the names listed are among those arrested recently (see my letters 1/3 of 24 May and 2 June).

(67)

3. The third charge, that of removing two names from the boycott list is a comparatively minor matter. It can scarcely be intended as a stand-by since the other charges, if brought, are unlikely to fail. It is more probably intended as a further measure to discredit Dr. Bazzaz. According to the report in Al Nur Bazzaz is to be committed on this charge before the First State Security Court. Also committed on this charge are three ex-Cabinet colleagues who sat with him on the Higher Supply Committee: Shukri Salih Zaki ex-Minister of Finance, Dr. Akram al Jaj, ex Minister of Agriculture and Dr. Abdul Hamid al Hilali, ex Minister of Economy. The paper reports that the date for this trial will be fixed when one month has expired from the issue of the summons against Shukri Salih Zaki. This summons was issued in the press on 25 June.

(65)

Yours ever  
*Michael Jenner*  
(M. K. Jenner)

P. R. M. Hinchcliffe, Esq.,  
Near Eastern Department,  
F.C.O.

c.c.  
Chancery,  
Beirut  
Amman  
Cairo  
Tel Aviv  
Washington

*Pa*  
*5/8*

RESTRICTED



Al Thawra. 8 July

The Investigating Committee has referred to the Revolution's Court Abdul Rahman al Bazzaz, Ibrahim Faisal al Ansari, Fadhil Muhammad Ali and 17 other accused persons on a charge of conspiring against the revolutionary regime. The Committee also decided to release 25 persons for lack of evidence against them.

The following is the list of persons referred to the Revolution's Court:-

1. Retd. Brigadier Fadhil Muhammad Ali
2. Retd. Staff Brigadier Abdul Aziz Taufiq
3. Retd. Brigadier Sa'ab al Hardan
4. Retd. Staff Major-General Ibrahim Faisal al Ansari
5. Retd. Colonel Daud Abdul Majid
6. Retd. Ltd. Col. Fadhil Abbas al Ali
7. Retd. Ltd. Col. Ahmad Abul Jibin
8. Retd. Captain Sami Uzara al Ma'jun
9. Abdul Rahman al Bazzaz
10. Fattah Hasan al Suhail
11. Saiyid Kalil al Qazwini
12. Ibrahim Saiyid Hamad al Mashhadani
13. Shaikh Lahmud al Ma'jun
14. Fauzi Ali Faisal
15. Junaid Abdul Razzaq
16. Abbas Muhammad al 'Uraibi
17. Retd. Police Commandant Abdullah Sha'ban
18. Retd. Police Brigadier Fauzi Shihab al Jumaili
19. Police Sgt. Karim Rabi'
20. Company Sgt. Major Shakir Bashir al 'Izzi.

The following is the list of persons to be released for lack of evidence against them: -

1. Retd. Staff Major-General Zaki Husain Hilmi
2. Retd. Staff Major-General Kamal Mustafa
3. Retd. Staff Major-General Mahmud Uraim



4. Retd. Brigadier Abdul Hadi Salih al Jumaili
5. Retd. Staff Major Salim Husain
6. Retd. Captain Safa Hadi al Dahash
7. Retd. 1st Lt. Abdul Razzaq Salman al Dulaimi
8. Retd. 1st Lt. Hashim Huraib
9. Retd. Lt. Abdul Hadi Jamil
10. Retd. Lt. Abdul Salam Jamil
11. Qasim al Mufti
12. Advocate Jasim al 'Awwadi
13. Advocate Hamid al Sakban
14. Dera' Mushhin al Hardan
15. Dera' Ali al Fayyadh
16. Dhari Ali al Fayyadh
17. Saiyid Salih Muhammad Ali al Hashimi
18. Taha Hasan al Samarrai
19. Tarish al Haj Hamidi
20. Abdul Wahhab Ali al Wehayyib
21. Abdul Hadi al Mashta
22. Fahad Mahawi
23. Muhammad al Dhukair
24. Company Sgt. Major Ibrahim Shu'aib al 'Izzi
25. Retd. 1st Lt. Rashid Alwan al Mahdawi

The paper understands that Abdul Rahman al Bazzaz and Retd. Brigadier Sa'ab al Hardan will be referred later on for trial on a charge of espionage for the account of a foreign State.



economic and political advantages of closer relations with Russia and its Warsaw pact allies. He will also propose a moratorium on mutual polemics – which in brass tacks would mean that the Yugoslav press should be prevented by the authorities from criticising Russia.

It is unlikely that the Yugoslavs will agree to this, but they will certainly want to hear from Mr Gromyko in greater detail what sort of economic co-operation Russia has in mind. This is a matter of great interest to the Yugoslavs, who need outlets in eastern Europe, mainly for their less sophisticated industries which do not do so well in world markets. It will be a case of cautious probing on both sides, without anything spectacular emerging from the visit.

## Moscow Radio Rooting for Franco

In recent weeks, Russia has come out strongly in support of the Spanish claim to Gibraltar, even though this means backing the Franco regime and quarrelling with the underground Spanish communist party, which has long been persecuted by the Spanish government.

A few days ago Radio Moscow attacked Britain in a broadcast in French to north Africa, saying that 'British colonialists' were trying to maintain their domination over Gibraltar not only with guns but by 'subterfuges' of all kinds. In the same commentary Moscow Radio referred to the withdrawal of the 'Portuguese' from the Moroccan territory of Ifni. Apart from the elementary blunder of describing this Spanish enclave as Portuguese, nothing was said of the remaining Spanish enclaves in Morocco (Ceuta and Melilla), with their large military garrisons, or of the Spanish Sahara.

It is a long time since Russian propaganda mentioned the Spanish territories in Africa, or African views about them. The Spanish government continues to regard these 'overseas provinces' (as they are officially termed) as military bases and training areas; about a fifth of Spain's armed forces was recently serving in Africa, including the various offshore islands.

Moroccan comment on this has been bitterly critical. Whereas Spain claims a rock – Gibraltar – of little basic economic value, Morocco seeks recovery of vast Saharan territories rich in minerals, and two city-ports, Ceuta and Melilla, enjoying a privileged position on the Mediterranean.

The same line has been taken by the Spanish communist party's 'Radio Independent Spain', commenting on the return of Ifni to Morocco. A recent broadcast said that if a country was to be in a position to condemn colonialism it must not hold colonies itself. The precedent of Ifni counted for little; Spain still had big colonial issues to face, in the Spanish Sahara with its rich phosphate deposits, and in Ceuta and Melilla.

As a result of this controversy the differences between Moscow and the Spanish communist party have widened. On May 15 the central committee of the Spanish party convened a meeting in Bordeaux, at which the party leader laid down that all party functionaries must follow their own line and not that of Moscow.

This, it has been made clear, applies to the argument about Czechoslovakia; the Spanish communist leadership has been strongly critical of the Soviet invasion. Party members who do not obey these instructions have been warned that they will be dismissed.



These developments followed complaints received in April by the central committee in Paris from the leadership operating illegally inside Spain. The latter had been receiving directives from a pro-Moscow faction on the central committee, condemning the party's line on the Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia and upholding the Brezhnev doctrine of 'limited sovereignty'. The party's leaders inside Spain urged the central committee to get rid of the pro-Russian faction, because the split in the party's ranks was impairing its underground activities.

In spite of all this, the party took part in the communist conference in Moscow last month. In a statement on 16 June, **Mr Santiago Carrillo**, secretary-general of the party, said that the Spanish delegation would sign the conference document simply to demonstrate its loyalty to the communist movement, but added that it had reservations about sections of the text.

The net result is that the Spanish communists are now rather left out on a limb: their quarrel with Moscow will give comfort only to Franco.

RECEIVED IN  
REGISTRY No. 10  
22 JUL 1969  
NEW 11/1

## Baathists' First and Last Anniversary?

The current joke in Baghdad is that the 25 prominent personalities — they included three former army divisional commanders — who were recently released from prison were set free because their cells were needed for newly arrested people. This may be a facetious *bon mot*, but it is also a commentary on the state of Iraq's present regime, which celebrates its first anniversary this week. It is highly doubtful whether it will survive to see another; by this time next year, the army will probably have carried through yet another military coup.

In the past few weeks, as the anniversary celebrations have drawn near, the country has been seething with rumour. Even by Iraqi standards the proliferation of 'spy allegations' has been bewildering. The irony is that many intelligent Iraqis believe, rightly or wrongly, that in recklessly spreading allegations about CIA and Israeli activity in their country the present Baathist leaders are trying to cover the fact that they themselves got help from the CIA in 1963, when they overthrew the ultra-leftist regime of General Qasim.

In an increasingly confused situation, certain basic points can be listed. Specifically:

(i) *Baathist control*. It is now perfectly obvious that the leaders of the regime want to keep it strictly Baathist. This could have been deduced about eleven months ago from the manner in which they quickly eliminated the prime minister, **Colonel al-Nayef**, and the minister of defence, **Colonel al-Dawood** — though the latter was given the post of Iraqi ambassador in Madrid.

(ii) *The case of Mr Bazzaz*. At the moment, the spotlight is focused on another former prime minister, **Abdul Rahman al-Bazzaz**, who with scores of others is awaiting trial. Mr Bazzaz's role in the Middle East as an influence for moderation is well known; unfortunately, tributes to his statesmanship and pleas for his safety on the part of certain western newspapers are likely to be counter-productive. Their state of mind being what it is, this kind of intercession redoubles the Baathists' determination to persecute him.

But it is significant that non-western governments are also deeply concerned about the fate of Bazzaz. The Egyptians, for example, have discreetly tried to exert their in-



fluence on his behalf; so have the Algerians. According to some reports, Bazzaz was arrested primarily because he was prime minister when an investigation was going on into the alleged case of corruption involving the present deputy prime minister and minister of defence, **General Hardan al-Tikriti**. (It was alleged in 1965 that Tikriti misappropriated the sum of £80,000 which had been collected ostensibly for distribution to those families who lost relatives in the fighting between General Qassim's forces and the Baathists in February 1963. The case was expected to go before the courts when the revolution of 17 July 1968 took place.)

(iii) *The case of Tahir Yahya*. The question of the allegedly missing £80,000 may also have a bearing on the fate of another ex-prime minister, **Tahir Yahya**, who held office under President Aref just over a year ago. He has been in prison for 12 months, without trial. One reason for the delay in bringing him and his followers to the courts may be lack of evidence against him. Other reports say that the present rulers are afraid to try him, because he will use the occasion to make public allegations of corruption against Tikriti, and possibly other members of the government.

(iv) *Relations with the Kurds*. Relations between the Baathist leaders and the Kurds have always been bad – both in 1963, and during the past 12 months. The Kurdish leader, **Mustapha al-Barzani**, did not allow any of his men to accept posts in the present government, which in retaliation has openly encouraged rival Kurdish factions, led by Jemal al-Talabani and by one of Barzani's former lieutenants, Awni Youssef, respectively. Fighting is still going on between al-Barzani's forces and other Kurdish groups, backed by the government.

The main Kurdish rebel forces have never been able to occupy any of the larger towns, where they might have set up a government. Their current tactics are to concentrate on sabotage of oil fields and other installations. Recently Mosul, Iraq's second largest city, was in darkness for the best part of two nights as a result of Kurdish sabotage of the main power station.

(v) *Persecution of the Shia community*. One of the most important developments in Iraq is the sustained oppression of the Shia community, who make up about 60 per cent of the population. Since the overthrow of Qassim (who was half-Shia) in 1963, they have been hostile to successive regimes. But while President Aref's government tried to some extent to appease the Shia, the present Baathist leaders are adopting a much tougher line.

The acting Imam, **Muhsin al-Hakeem**, who is 80 years of age, has been put under house arrest – a drastic measure for any government to take against a man who exerts great religious influence throughout the Middle East. His son Mehdi al-Hakeem managed to escape arrest only by fleeing the country a few weeks ago. Mustapha Jeeta, aged 75, who was executed earlier this year for allegedly 'spying for the Israelis', was a friend of the acting Imam, and acted as his representative in Basra.

The Shia community has a number of weapons it can wield against the government – strikes, sabotage and propaganda. More important, most of the army's rank-and-file are Shia (the officers are mostly Sunni). If ordered by the Imam not to take up arms, it is doubtful whether they would fight. A few weeks ago a clash took place between the Baathist National Guard and the Shia, in the Shia holy cities of Najaf and Karbala, in which a number of people were killed and many more wounded. This was followed by a wave of arrests of Shia leaders.

Orders have been issued for the arrest of a number of prominent Shia leaders living abroad, including **Mahmoud Hassan Jumaa**, a former minister, who is now working



in Abu Dhabi as head of the planning board, and Saad Saleh Jabr, son of Saleh Jabr, the first Shia prime minister of Iraq. They have been accused of being CIA agents, and their property has been seized.

A Shia retired general, **Sayid Hameed Sayid Hassan**, was recently arrested in the Iraqi embassy in Cairo. He was to have been flown to Baghdad for trial, but the Egyptian authorities stepped in and stopped his departure. The embassy is now reported to be under the close scrutiny of the Egyptian security police, to ensure that he is not smuggled out of the country.

Shia leaders are now involved in attempts to set up a rival government in the north, in which the Shia would play a prominent part, although the initiative would come from the Kurds. **Al-Hakeem**, the son of the Imam, is reported to have met, and sought the help of, the Shah of Iran, and is now said to be collaborating with Barzani with a view to promoting the formation of a 'provisional government' based in the north. This, however, is difficult to substantiate; and previous attempts by the Kurds to carry the Shia with them have had little success.

Meanwhile, members of the minority Sunni hold all the key posts. The Revolutionary Command Council, the highest executive and legislative authority, is composed solely of Sunni. The real strong man of the regime, **Saddam al-Tikriti**, leader of the Baathist National Guard, is a Sunni.

(vi) *International relations.* Relations between Iraq and Iran are steadily worsening; Baghdad radio attacks the Shah of Iran virulently almost every day. Many Iranians who were born in Iraq, but who never visited their mother-country, have been expelled in the course of the past few months. The Baathists' attempt to use **General Bakhtiari**, who was dismissed by the Shah some years ago, to stir up opposition to the present regime in Teheran has been a failure. (Ironically, it was widely alleged that between 1961 and 1963 Bakhtiari was working for the Americans to overthrow Qassim.) Relations between Iraq and Russia, however, are improving. The influence of the Soviet embassy in Baghdad is considerable.

(vii) *Future trends.* There is little sign of any let-up in the policy of repression. According to reliable sources, many more people are earmarked for arrest and trial as 'spies'. But the army is restive — and it feels humiliated by the supremacy assumed by the Baathist National Guard under Saddam al-Tikriti. This may spell the end of the present regime.

**The Economist**



legat. PUNM 25/7

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NEQI/1

RECEIVED IN REGISTRY No. 10 25 JUL 1969 NEQI/1
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28, Arax Avenue,  
London. S.W. 20.

23<sup>rd</sup> July 1969.

Dear Mr Hinchcliffe,

(94)

Thank you for  
sending me the list of  
names taken from the  
press.

I am most grateful  
and in some measure  
relieved.

Yours sincerely

Aphne Hashimi



29 JUL 1969

Cutting dated ..... 19

100  
A.H.

# Trial of Dr Bazzaz to be held in secret 4

From PAUL MARTIN

Beirut, July 28

The Baathist regime in Iraq has decided to hold the trial of Dr. Abdul Rahman al-Bazzaz, the former Prime Minister, in secret. In spite of an official silence about the trial, all available evidence points to the fact that the Revolutionary Court will soon begin to hear the cases against Dr. al-Bazzaz and 19 other accused, if it has not begun the hearing already.

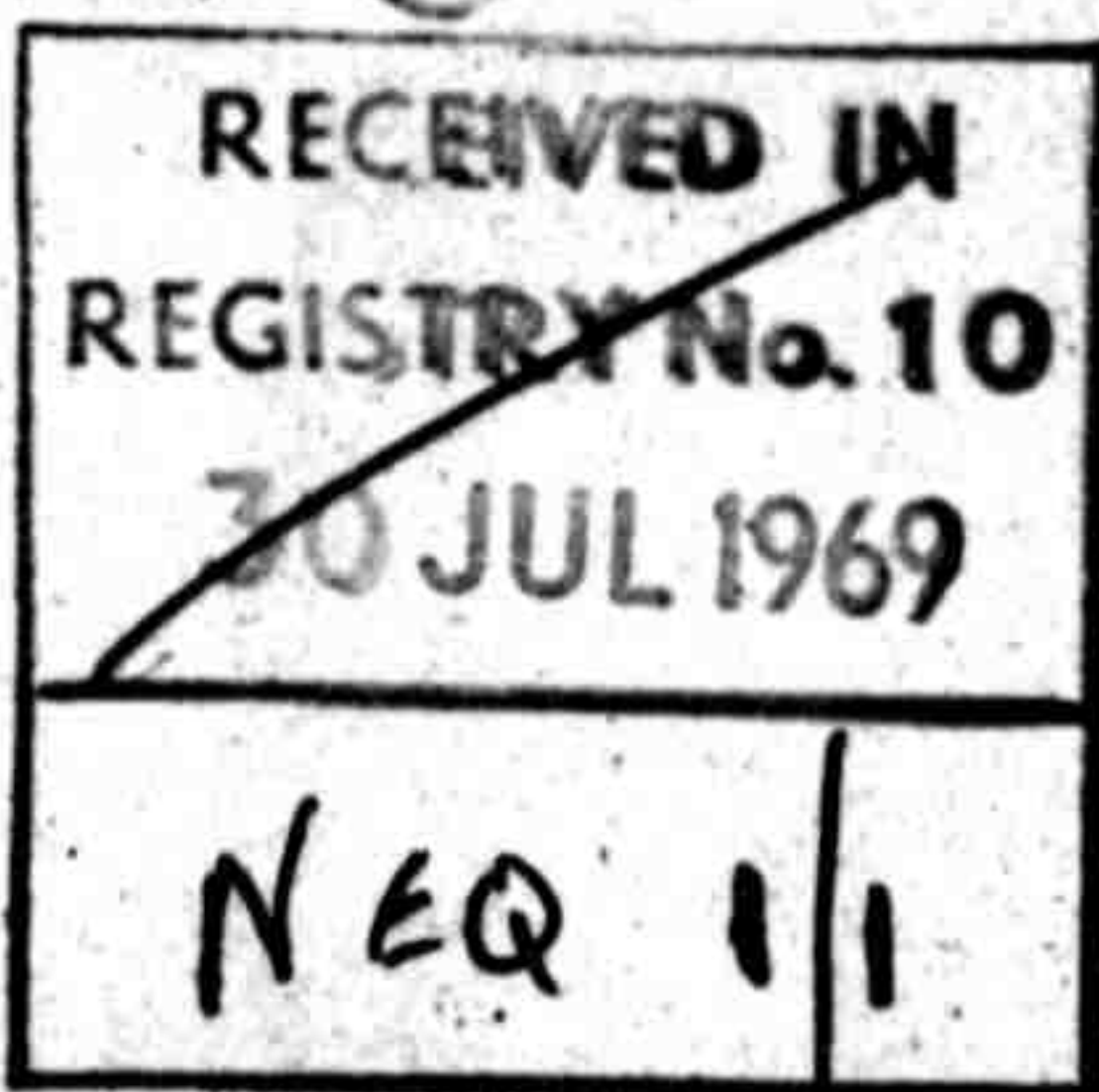
Originally, the regime had hoped to present Dr. al-Bazzaz on television in one of the familiar screen confessions. But, according to friends of the former Prime Minister, the regime found that unlike previous cases of political leaders "cracking" under severe strain, it was unable to present anything likely to stir the imagination of even the most naive television viewer.

However, it does seem likely that the regime will present Dr. al-Bazzaz on television by showing excerpts from his trial.

It would seem possible to piece together enough "incriminating evidence" in a dubious montage, particularly as Dr. al-Bazzaz was far from alone in his opposition to the regime.

Standing trial with Dr. al-Bazzaz will be Major-General Ibrahim Faisal al-Ansari, a former Chief of Staff of the Iraq armed forces. They face a charge of taking part in a plot engineered by the Central Intelligence Agency to overthrow the regime and replace it with one prepared to make peace with Israel.

Since Dr. al-Bazzaz enjoys a wide reputation for integrity and ability, and is the most prominent figure to face the Revolutionary Court so far, his case has been regarded as the one on which the success or failure of the regime's purge of its opponents depends. That the regime has decided to hold it *in camera* has already presented Arab public opinion with its verdict.

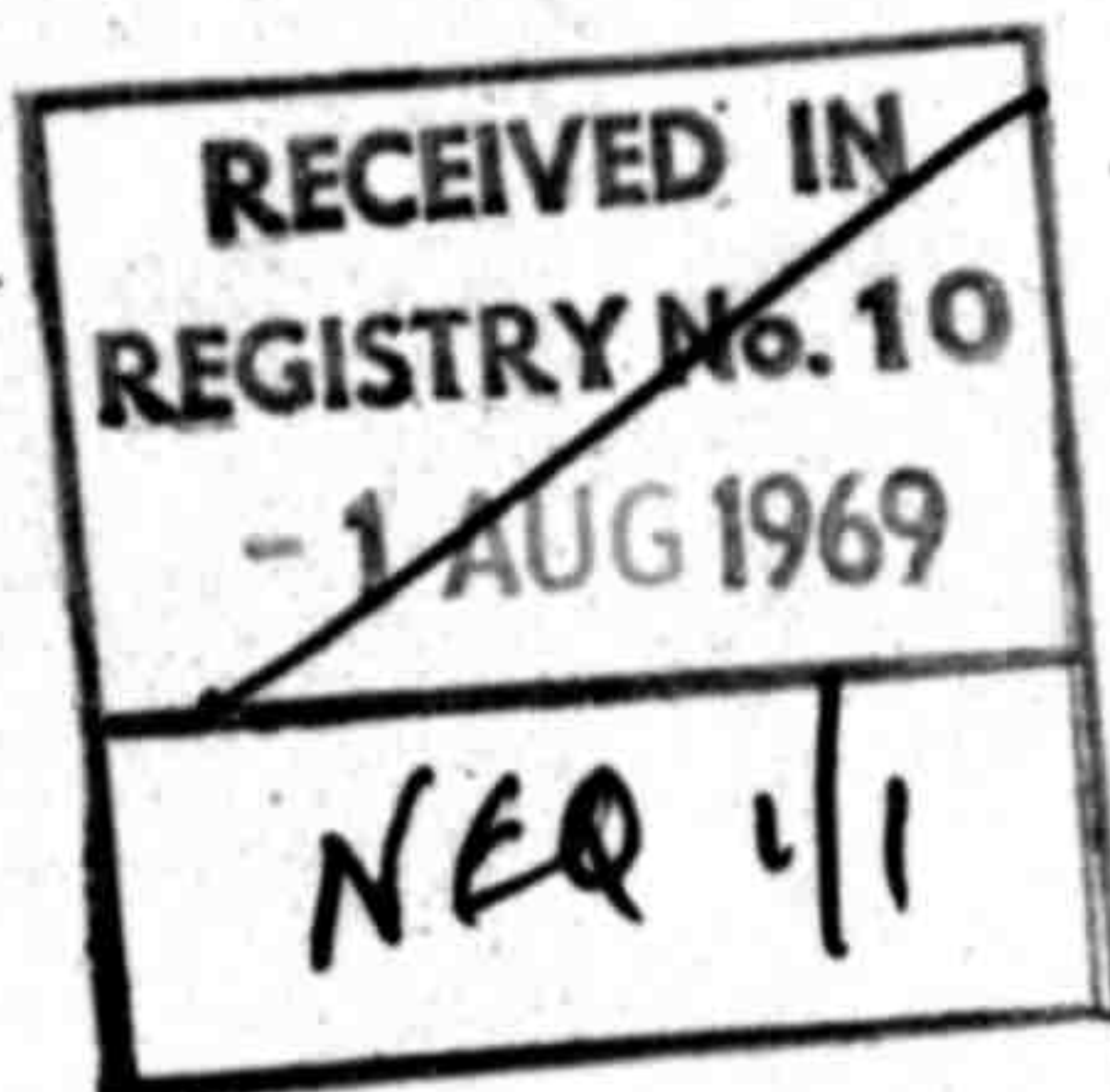


Reg &amp; Po.

RMM  
21/7



Cutting dated 31 JUL 1969, 19



## Iraq supports Nasser's Arab 'summit' plan

Iraq celebrated the anniversary of its 1968 "little coup" yesterday with a series of high level Cabinet appointments and the signing of a defence agreement with Syria.

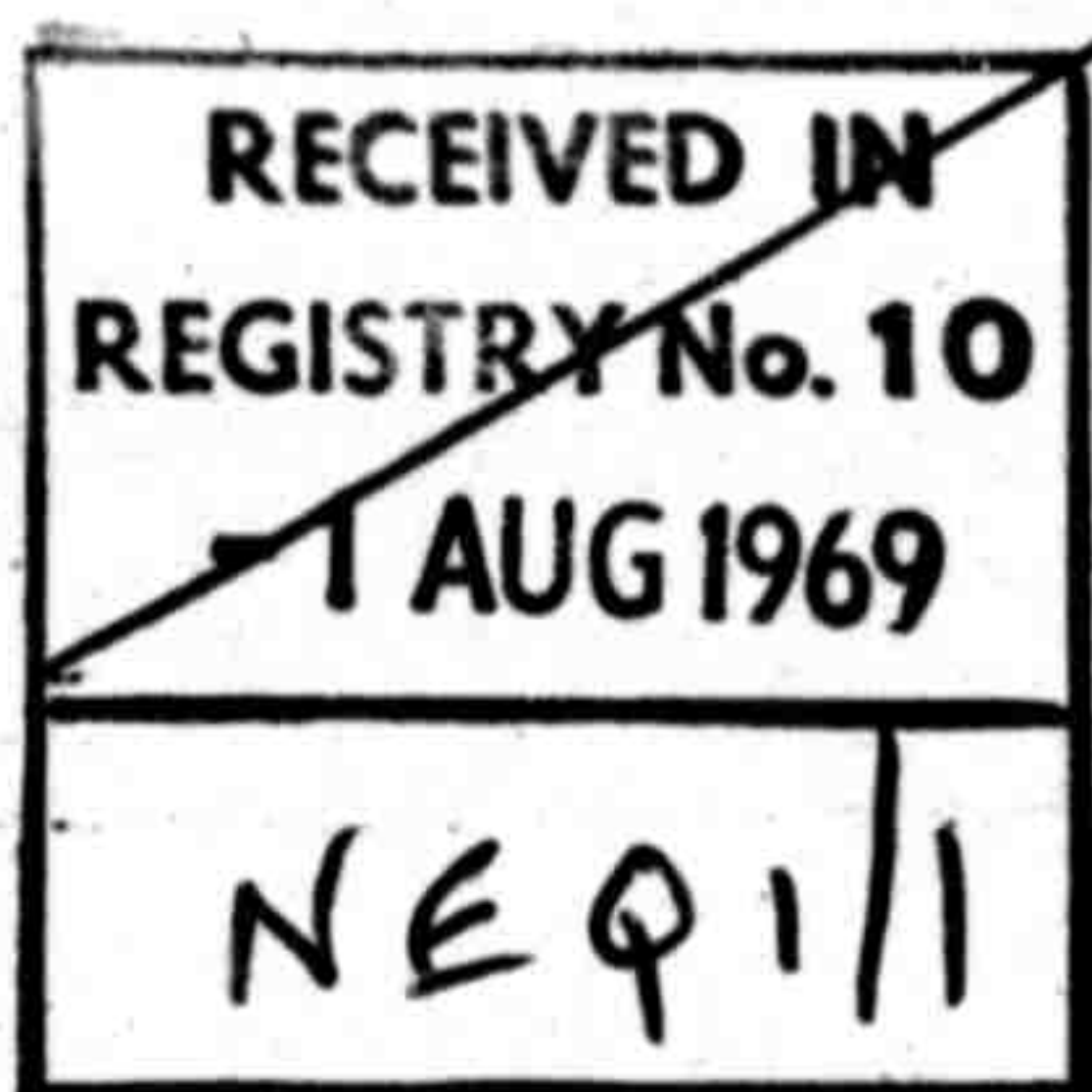
At the same time, a military delegation flew to Cairo for talks with the Egyptian War Ministry officials, and the Foreign Minister, Mr Abdel Sheikhly, announced Iraq's Government support for the Arab "summit" urged by President Nasser.

In a series of commemorative programmes, Bagdad Radio recalled the ousting last year of the Prime Minister and Defence Minister, two weeks after they had helped to organise a coup which overthrew President Aref.

Reg. 6/4.

31/7





102

TOP COPY

EN CLAIR

BAGHDAD TO FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

TELNO 712 31 JULY, 1969

UNCLASSIFIED

IRAQ INTERNAL. THE FOLLOWING CABINET CHANGES WERE ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY BY DECREE OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND COUNCIL.

(A) DR MAWLOOD KAMEL ABED TO REPLACE JASSEM KADHEM AL AZZAWI AS MINISTER OF AGRIRIAN REFORM. (B) DR TAHA IBRAHIM AL ABDULLAH APPOINTED MINISTER OF IRRIGATION. THIS NEW MINISTRY IS TO BE FORMED BY DETATCHING THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF IRRIGATION FROM THE MINISTRY OF AGRARIAN REFORM.

2. THE NEW MINISTERS QUALIFIED IN AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION RESPECTIVELY AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES.

### 3. LETTER FOLLOWS

MR. HAWLEY

FCO/WH DISTRIBUTION  
N.E.D.

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PMA  
1/8.



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103



RECEIVED IN REGISTRY No. 10 - 4 AUG 1969 NEQ 1/1
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British Embassy,  
BAGHDAD.

29 July, 1969.

(1/3)

Dear Hinchcliffe,

The Shi'a

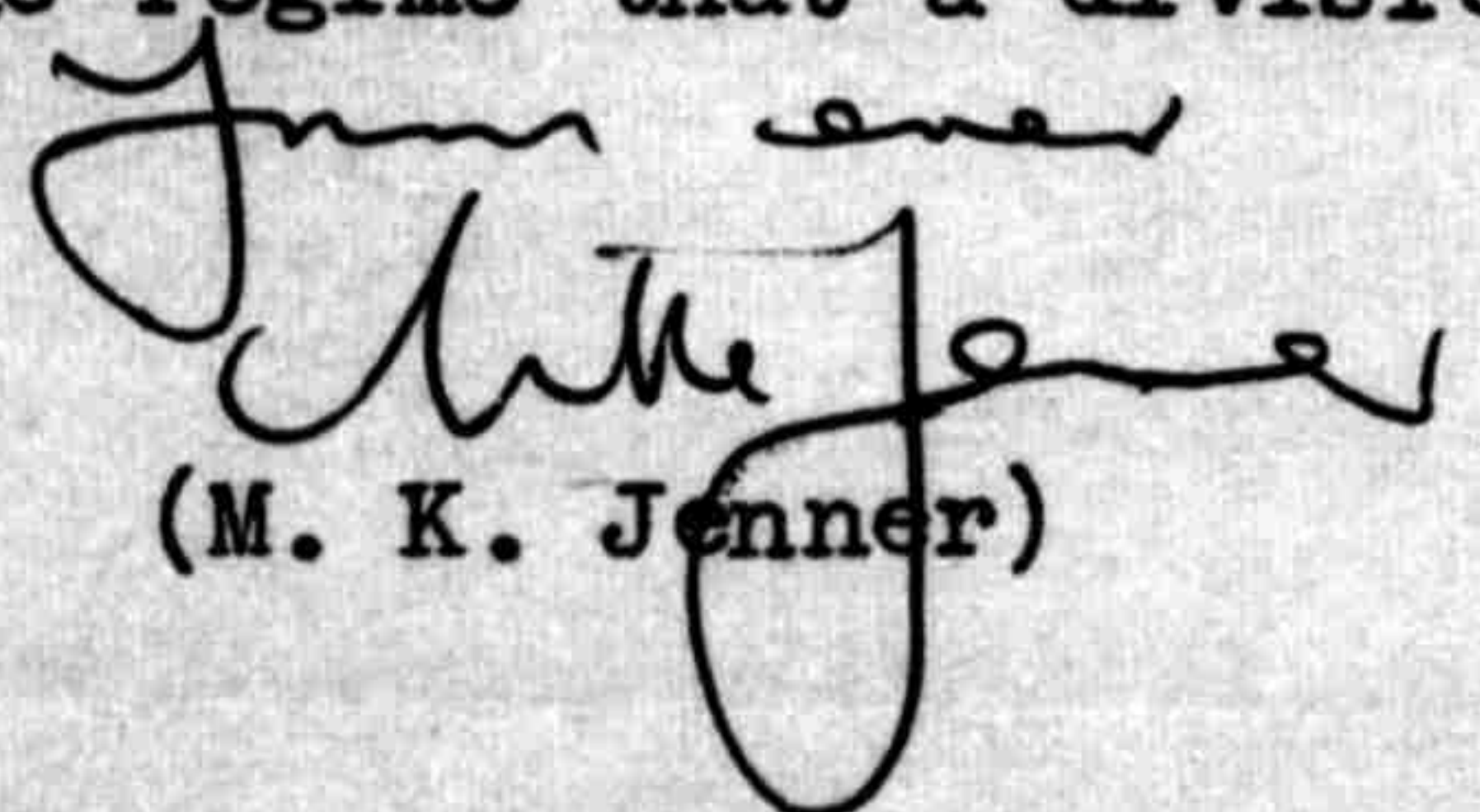
74

56

Please refer to my letters 1/3 of 14 June and 1 July reporting the trouble that has blown up recently between the régime and the Shi'a community in Iraq. You may now be interested in some recent indications of an attempt by the government to quell the Shi'a discontent.

2. On 27 July President Bakr received a delegation of Ulema from Kerbala and Najaf. He treated them to a discourse on the government's achievements so far and called for the "elimination of all sectarian, racial and regional prejudices." Members of the delegation replied expressing their loyalty to the revolutionary government and their admiration for its achievements at home and abroad; they also denounced "Iranian provocations" in familiar terms. This meeting has received a certain amount of editorial comment. Al Hurriyah (28 July) speaks of the duty of the Ulema to help "bring the people together." The Baghdad Observer (28 July) also speaks of the responsibilities borne by the Ulema and of the care shown them by the régime because of their important position. This last is a reference to a number of administrative measures recently taken by the régime which were clearly aimed at winning over the religious leaders. These included a distribution of building land in the Ulema quarter of Najaf; the exemption of all religious schools from water and electricity charges; and a pay rise for all religious men employed by the Ministry of Awqaf.

3. It is doubtful whether pre-arranged speechifying and minor administrative sops will go far to allay distrust and hostility which, if the circular enclosed with my letter of 1 July is any guide, goes very deep and is based on religious principles. However this does amount to an admission by the régime that a division exists.

  
(M. K. Jenner)

P. R. M. Hinchcliffe, Esq.,  
Near Eastern Department,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

c.c.

Chancery,  
Tehran  
Beirut.

RES TRICTED



BAGHDAD PRESS EXTRACTS

British Embassy, Baghdad.

Saturday - July 26, 1969.

EDITORIAL:

Al-Nur:

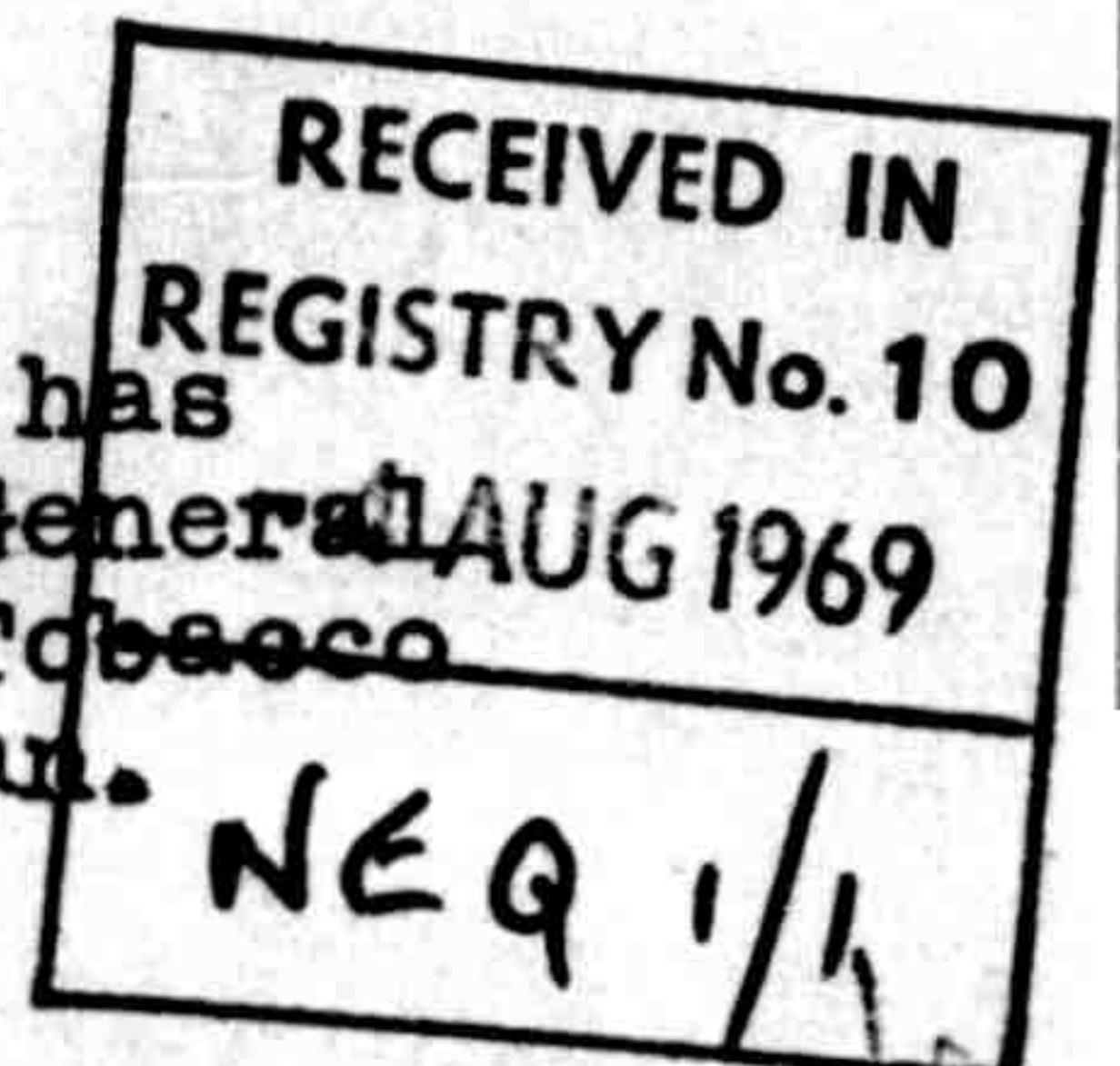
The editorial deals with Britain's withdrawal from the Gulf and the Imperialists' plans to continue controlling the region. It maintains that their plans are, in short, to adulterate the Arabism of the Gulf by helping Iranian immigration and encouraging Iran's claim on parts of the Gulf i.e. Bahrain. The seriousness of these points was confirmed by the discussion of them during the recent meeting of CENTO.

The editorial says that Iraq has many reasons to hasten to the defence of the people of the Gulf. In addition to the ties of language, history, Arabism and religion which bind the two people together, the Gulf is considered the southern wing of Iraq as well as her only open way to the sea.

NEWS ITEMS:

A university delegation paid a visit to Arbil Liwa to discuss the subject of establishing Arts and Science colleges in the Liwa as soon as possible.

The Jordanian Tobacco and Cigarettes Company Ltd. has extended an invitation to Saiyid Hasan Husain, Director-General of Tobacco Monopoly and Saiyid Kamal Wajdi, Director of Tobacco Trimming at Sulaimaniyah to pay a five day visit to Jordan.



The Revolutionary Command Council has decided to lift the attachment placed on the movable and immovable properties belonging to the following :-

- (1) Dr. Ahmad Arif al Sharud
- (2) Saiyid Abdul Halim Ammar Al-Rawi
- (3) Saiyid Yusuf Khidher Elias.

=====

Cut for File.

PRMM

1/8



N/E  
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104.

Mr Hinchcliffe

## Iraqis under fire

From S. R. GHOURI : Karachi, August 6

The Iraqi Government's treatment of Moslem divines has been sharply criticised in Pakistan. Pakistani Mullahs, especially those belonging to the Shia sect, have been holding meetings to condemn the execution of Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al-Badri, who was revered throughout the Moslem world, and the arrests of other Ulema.

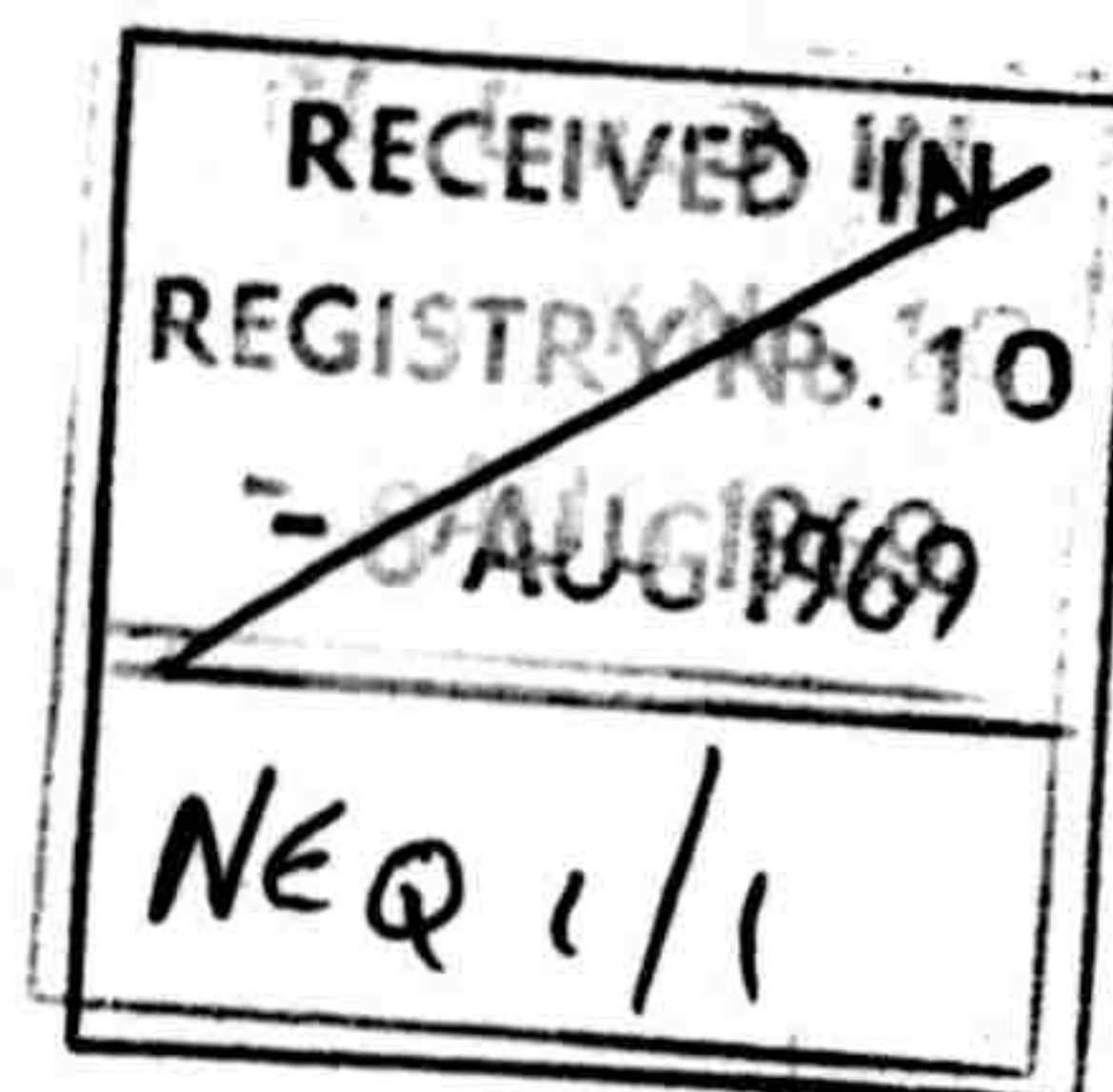
A Pakistani national who translated an Arabic book written by Pakistan's head of Jamate Islami against socialism

has also been executed by the Iraqi Government.

A young Moslem in Karachi was so distressed by Iraqi atrocities that a week ago he burned himself to death in the city's most populous area. This led to an uproar in the Shia community and even Sunni divines, who usually do not support Shias, joined the protest.

The Pakistan Government has so far taken a neutral stand

The press secretary of the Iraqi Embassy today denied allegations of atrocities by the Al-Bakr regime against the divines.



Reg. No.

*[Handwritten signature]*

2/8



JUL 69 M

NOT FOR PUBLICATION 28

(TEXT) BAGHDAD--THE IRAQI COURT OF THE REVOLUTION UNDER THE PRESIDENCY OF COL ALI HADI WITWIT, HAS DECIDED TO HOLD THE TRIAL OF THOSE ACCUSED OF ESPIONAGE AND PLOTTING AGAINST THE PRESENT REGIME IN CAMERA. IT HAS BEEN STATED HERE THAT THE COURT SESSIONS HAVE IN FACT BEGUN. THE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEES HAVE ENDED THEIR WORK AND REFERRED MOST OF THE CASES TO THE COURT OF THE REVOLUTION. IT HAS ALSO BEEN LEARNED THAT THE AUTHORITIES CONCERNED HAVE DECIDED TO RECORD THE COURT PROCEEDINGS FOR LATER RADIO AND TELEVISION RELAY IF THERE IS NEED.

PAGE 2 RUQVLS 0010 UNCLAS

IT IS RECALLED THAT THE ACCUSED INCLUDE FORMER PREMIER ABD AR-RAHMAN AL-BAZZAZ, FORMER CHIEF OF STAFF MAJ GEN FAYSAL AL-ANSARI, AND ABOUT 30 THIRTY POLITICAL AND MILITARY FIGURES. THEY HAVE BEEN REFERRED TO COURT ON CHARGES OF PLOTTING TO OVERTHROW THE RULING BATH REGIME.

171025 JAZ/MK/BEREND 17/1123Z JUL

BT

Mr. A. G. ...  
H. ...  
Pa ...  
m ...  
Iraq Internal ...  
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Iraq internal

RESTRICTED



BRITISH EMBASSY,  
BAGHDAD.

1 August 1969

RECEIVED IN REGISTRY No. 10 12 AUG 1969
NEQ 1/1

Dear Hinchcliffe,

Iraq Internal

--- Please refer to our telegram 712 of 31 July about the  
--- Cabinet changes announced on 30 July. I now enclose three  
--- copies of the revised Iraqi cabinet and brief biographies of  
the two new Ministers. They are clearly well-qualified  
technicians and both of them have had experience in administration.

2. There does not appear to be any political motive for the changes. The replacement of Sayid Al-Azzawi, a soldier turned diplomat, by two specialists in the fields of Agriculture and Irrigation clearly reflects the preoccupation of the present government, and President Bakr in particular, with agrarian reform. There has been pressure for some time now to form a new Ministry of Irrigation as a national follow-up to the separation of the Ministries of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform. This pressure had always been resisted by the Minister of Agrarian Reform who stood to lose the larger part of his Department. This problem has been solved by his departure and the appointment of two relative unknowns.

*John Jenner*  
*M. K. Jenner*  
(M. K. Jenner)

P. R. M. Hinchcliffe, Esq.,  
Near Eastern Department,  
F.C.O.

c.c. Chancery,  
BEIRUT.

RESTRICTED



DR. TAHA IBRAHIM AL ABDULLAH

Dr. Taha Ibrahim al-Abdullah, the new Minister of Irrigation, was born in Baghdad in 1927. In 1949 he graduated from the Engineering College and served as irrigation engineer at the Directorate General of Irrigation. He got a Master's Degree in Irrigation and Drainage Engineering from the University of Utah, USA and in 1965 a Doctor's Degree in Irrigation and Civil Engineering from the same University. On his return from America he taught at the University of Baghdad. He was elected Chairman of the Engineers Association and was appointed member of the Planning Board. On July 30, 1969, the Revolutionary Command Council appointed him as the first Minister of Irrigation.



DR. MAWLOOD KAMEL ABED

Dr. Mawlood Kamel Abed, the new Minister of Agrarian Reform, was born in Baghdad in 1934. He completed his secondary education in 1951 and in 1956 obtained a Doctorate from the College of Agriculture and Mechanics at the University of Texas. On his return from America he was appointed Director of Entomology Research at the Directorate-General of Plant Protection.

On January 19 1968, he was elected Chairman of the Union of Agriculturalists. On May 29 1969 he was appointed President of the State Organisation of Agricultural Development. On July 30 1969 The Revolutionary Command Council appointed him Minister of Agrarian Reform.



*1.R.D*

*then entered.*

*Iraq Internal*



*106*

British Embassy,  
BAGHDAD.

UNCLASSIFIED

(1/3)

*[scribble]*

*12/8*

1 AUGUST 1969. RECEIVED IN REGISTRY No. 10 12 AUG 1969 NEQ 1/1
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*Dear Hinchcliffe,*  
Iraq Internal

---

Further to my letter of 22 July I enclose a translation of another circular distributed in Beirut by "The National Front." The circular has not, to my knowledge, appeared in Baghdad.

*[Signature]*  
(M. K. Jenner)

*Riss*

*Mr. Rayner XX*  
*Mr. Barry XX*  
*Remba X*

P. R. M. Hinchcliffe, Esq.,  
Near Eastern Department,  
F.C.O.



## **THE ARAB NATIONALISTS.**

**The Leaders of Ba'ath are thieves.**

**The leaders of the disloyal Ba'ath Party who imposed their severe control by means of iron and fire over the fate of our country binding our striving and patient people with the fetters of the terroristic bloody regime. They dashed out of their hobbling cord without any conscience restrain to prevent them from robbing the wealth of our people and depriving them of even their daily food while stuffing it in foreign banks for ~~for~~ themselves. They used the fight with our Kurdish brothers as a pretext to waste millions on killing, ~~destru~~ and blood shedding. They waste other millions on officers, fatal arms and napalm to bring about the destruction of many innocent free souls who are merely asking for the simplest rights of citizenship.**

**The leaders of the Ba'ath do not conceal their preoccupation in smuggling and robbing operations and the importation of West German and American cars and selling them in the black market.**

**Amash got indulged in pleasure hunting in London on the pretext of his visit to Poland. Tikriti got busy gambling with people's money in London. The leaders of Ba'ath are exhausting the assets of the Iraqi economy and the great oil royalties by using them for their private purposes and pleasure and for the individual selfish desires.**

**The Iraqi Dinar is threatened by dropping its value in the financial markets due to scantiness of the volume of our gold reserve and hard currency.**

**Our Iraqi economy is swaying towards falling as a result of wasting our oil wealth and burdening us with heavy foreign loans. Our country was one of the richest countries of the world, and now is faced with many an economic problems and difficulties.**

**Why should the state of unemployment prevail in our country?  
Why did productive exploitation stop in our country?  
Why should the national royalties be smuggled out?  
The reply to all these question is one.**

**The credits allotted for construction and development purposes are spent on importation of arms ~~and~~ for brothers to fight, thus giving the leaders of the Ba'ath the opportunity to steal and rob. Our obstinate striving people can only agree and unite to deal the final and fatal blow against the Government of crimes and disloyalty.**



ly

THE IRAQI CABINET  
(AS ON 30 JULY, 1969)

Sa'id Ahmad Hasan al Bakr	Prime Minister
Air Force General Hardan Abdul Ghaffar al Tikriti	Deputy Premier and Minister of Defence.
1st General Salih Mahdi Ammash	Deputy Premier and Minister of the Interior.
Saiyid Abdul Karim Abdul Sattar al Shaikhli	Minister of Foreign Affairs.
Saiyid Amin Abdul Karim	Minister of Finance.
Saiyid Mahdi al Dola'i	Minister of Justice
Dr. Ahmad Abdul Sattar al Jawari	Minister of Education
Saiyid Anwar Abdul Qadir al Hadithi	Minister of Labour and Social Affairs.
Dr. Izzat Mustafa	Minister of Health
Saiyid Abdullah Sallum	Minister of Culture and Information.
* Saiyid Mahmud Sheet Khattab	Minister of Communications.
Dr. Abdul Husain al Attiyah	Minister of Agriculture
Dr. Maulud Kamil Abid	Minister of Agrarian Reform.
Dr. Taha Ibrahim al Abdullah	Minister of Irrigation
...	Minister of Works and Housing
Dr. Jawad Hashim	Minister of Planning
Dr. Fakhri Yasin Qadduri	Minister of Economy
Saiyid Khalid Makki al Hashimi	Minister of Industry
Dr. Rashid al Rifa'e	Minister of Oil and Minerals
Dr. Ghayib Mawlood Mukhlis	Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs.
Saiyid Shafiq al Kamali	Minister of Youth Welfare
...	Minister of North Affairs
Dr. Abdullah al Khudhayir	Minister of Unity and Acting Minister of North Affairs.
* Saiyid Adnan Ayoub Sabri	Minister of State
Saiyid Hamid al Juburi	Minister of State for Presidential Affairs.
Saiyid Taha Muhyiddin	Minister of State and Acting Minister of Works & Housing.
Dr. Hamad Dallil al Karbuli	Minister of State for Awqaf Affairs.

\* Saiyid Mahmud Sheet Khattab is understood to have been absent from his office for some 4 months. Saiyid Adnan Ayoub Sabri is acting Minister of Communications. No official announcement of this has been made.



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Near Eastern Department,

107

14 August, 1969.

Abd Al Hamid Al Sarrai

We saw from a recent monitoring report, that the above-named had been appointed Chief of Police by President Al Bakr. I wonder if, by any strange chance, this could be the same man who was President Nasser's gauleiter in Syria during the days of the Syria Egyptian Federation?

I am sure that this is an extremely remote possibility - when last heard of, Abd Al Hamid was running some kind of insurance company in Cairo.

X      *fa*      *zpd*  
(P. R. M. Hinchcliffe)

A. E. Saunders, Esq.,  
British Embassy,  
BAGHDAD.

*fm* *PMW*

1968

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RECEIVED IN  
REGISTRY No. 10  
28 AUG 1969

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British Embassy,  
BAGHDAD.

21 August, 1969.

(1/2)

NEQ 1/1

*See letter*

Abdul Hamid al Sarraj

107

You were perfectly correct to doubt in your letter of 14 August whether the above named is the same as Nasser's gauleiter in Syria. We know little about this particular Sarraj other than his previous appointment was Commander of the River Force and that Sarraj was also a common family name in Iraq. If we hear any more about him in which you may be interested I will let you know.

*Yours sincerely,*

*A. E. Saunders*

(A. E. Saunders)

P. R. M. Hinchcliffe, Esq.,  
Near Eastern Department,  
F.C.O.,  
London, S.W.1.

*Regonly*

*PMM*

*28/8*

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(109)



RECEIVED IN  
REGISTRY No. 10  
28 AUG 1969

NEQ 1/1

Spy Rings

British Embassy,  
BAGHDAD.

23 August, 1969.

You will have seen in the summary of World Broadcasts ME/3155/A/13 of 19 August that the authorities have arrested the members of yet another alleged spy network.

2. On 18 August Al Nur reported that the authorities had referred to the Revolutionary Court the following twelve persons accused of spying for Israel:

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. Munir Ibrahim Sasoon Abdu  | Estate Agent                            |
| 2. Sasoon Ibrahim Sasoon Abdu | Estate Agent                            |
| 3. Juliette William           | Hostess at the Iraqi Airlines           |
| 4. Badri Sitrak               | Retired Officer                         |
| 5. Dikran Iskanderian Abkar   | Owner of Baghdadiyah Pharmacy           |
| 6. Madeleine Michael          | Owner of Garo Store at Mustansir Street |
| 7. Ali Amin Kan'an            | Hosts at Iraqi Airlines                 |
| 8. Zuhair Juna                |   |
| 9. John Michael               |   |
| 10. Fraine Shamms             |   |
| 11. Zaiya Noel                |   |
| 12. Beni Stanley              |   |

3. We have seen no more in the press but the story is circulating that these 12 people, who are probably part of the new ring, are not involved in intelligence activities but are guilty of illegally exporting money for the Jewish community in Iraq. The fact that some

.../of

P. R. M. Hinchcliffe, Esq.,  
Near Eastern Department,  
F.C.O.,  
London, S.W.1.

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- 2 -

of the people mentioned are stewards or hostesses on Iraqi Airlines would give some credibility to this possibility. Of the 12 persons nos 1 and 2 are Jews, no. 7 a Muslim and the rest Christians. It is said in some quarters that one of the girls, Madeleine Michael, has in fact been in jail for the last 12 months, and one of the Armenians has been in and out of jail at least three times during the last 12 months.

*Yours truly*

*Barkai*

(A. E. Saunders)

c.c. Chanceries at:

Washington  
Cairo  
Tel Aviv

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111

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CYPHER/CAT.A

ROUTINE JEDDA

TELEGRAM NO. 3

TO BAGHDAD

2 SEPTEMBER 1969

RECEIVED IN REGISTRY NO. 10 - 3 SEP 1969 NEQ 1/1
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I UNDERSTAND THAT THE IRAQ GOVERNMENT HAS NOW CLOSED BAGHDAD COLLEGE AND GIVEN THE JESUIT FATHERS ONE WEEK TO LEAVE. I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF, AT YOUR DISCRETION, YOU WOULD PASS TO FATHER CARTY, OR SENIOR PRIEST, THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM FATHER SULLIVAN AT THE COLLEGE OF PETROLEUM AND MINERALS, DHAHRAN:  
QUOTE ANYONE DESIROUS OF TEACHING ENGLISH PLEASE CABLE SULLIVAN, CABLE ADDRESS COLLEYAH DHAHRAN UNQUOTE.

F.C.O. PASS

MR. CRAIG

[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

Pa  
PMM  
7/9

REPETITIONS DISTRIBUTION

N. EAST. D.

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CULT. R.D.

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SUMMARY

A year has passed since the Baathists seized power. Their Party programme prescribed energetic measures to secure their continuation in power including the acquisition of control over the armed forces and the administration at all levels, cooperation with certain political groups and the destruction of others. (Paragraphs 1 - 3.)

2. The line adopted on the Arab-Israel question rejected the idea of a political solution and called for the strengthening of relations with the Communist countries. The Baathists would maintain the Arab character of the Gulf. The programme specified steps to be taken to increase revenue from oil and stressed the need for direct exploitation of mineral resources by the State. The programme contained measures affecting banking and the nationalisation of the import trade and of the wholesale trade. (Paragraphs 4 - 6.)

3. The Party has had little success internally. Use of arrests and spy trials to discredit or terrify all potential opposition. Continued sporadic fighting in Kurdistan and alienation of the Shia minority. Abroad, the régime has few friends; good relations with the Communists arises out of Communist support for the Arabs over Palestine. Iraq's relations with her neighbours and fellow Arabs range from the cool and suspicious to the downright hostile. Only in her relations with the British-protected Gulf states has Iraq had some small success. (Paragraphs 7 - 10.)

/4. Although

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4. Although there has been no settlement with the Iraq Petroleum Company, the Baathists' economic policies have fared better. (Paragraph 11.)
5. Although opposition from other groups has been neutralised, rivalries within the Baathist leadership and foreign intrigues make the situation unstable. So long as it survives, future policies will include all measures to ensure their retention of power, the containment of the Kurdish rebellion, an extreme and inflexible line over the Palestine problem, the development of relations with the Communist countries, the extension of their influence in the Gulf, a settlement with the I.P.C. if possible, but, if not, possibly the nationalisation of one of I.P.C's constituent companies. The Baathists' ruthlessness may enable them to transfer an increasing proportion of their energies from the struggle to retain power towards carrying out their programme. (Paragraphs 12 - 13.)

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(1/3)

BRITISH EMBASSY,

BAGHDAD.

25 August, 1969.

Sir,

In the middle of July 1969 the present rulers of Iraq celebrated the anniversary of three revolutions: that of the 14th of July 1958 which overthrew King Faisal II and the régime of Nuri al Said; that of the 17th of July 1968 which overthrew the régime of Abdul Rahman Arif and that of the 30th of July 1968 when the Baathists ousted those with whom they had collaborated to stage the coup d'état a fortnight earlier. The Baathists used the celebrations to review what they have achieved in their first year of office, which is already longer than their period of power in 1963. The time is therefore opportune for an assessment of what they have done and where they now stand.

2. Those now in power did not achieve it by their own efforts alone. Only President Bakr among those who now occupy leading positions in the Government was prominent between the 17th and the 30th of July 1968. In that brief period the leading light was General Abdul Razzak al Nayif, who had joined with the right-wing Baathists to give his military group the necessary political backing. His downfall came as a result of failure to take precautions against being cast aside by his more skilful fellow-conspirators

/when he had

The Right Honourable  
Michael Stewart, M.P.,  
etc., etc., etc.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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when he had served his purpose. The first aim of the Baathists was to stay in the saddle. They, therefore, acted quickly to place trusted supporters in key positions in the armed forces, the police and the administration, thus beginning a process, which is still continuing, of strengthening their grip on the whole government apparatus. Unexceptionable declarations of intent were made to reassure the many Iraqis who feared that a new Baathist Government would again plunge the country into violence and bloodshed as in 1963.

3. A clearer idea of Baathist policies emerged, however, after the Seventh Party Congress held in Baghdad in November 1968. Their political aims as then stated were in brief the creation of a national and progressive, or revolutionary, unity within Iraq to face the dangers presented by Imperialism and Zionism and to solve the country's internal problems. For the most important of these, the Kurdish problem, the Party advocated a peaceful solution based on the Bazzaz proposals, the June Manifesto of 1966. The unpublished Party programme, however, expressed a firm intention to retain all effective power in its hands, to profit from the political support and cooperation of other groups and to destroy those who could or would not be used. Cooperation with the "progressive" Nasserist groups, the definition of relations with President Nasser and limited cooperation with Arab nationalist groups were advocated, as was cooperation with the Communists,

/particularly





particularly the Baha Din al Nuri group and Fakhri's pro-Chinese group. Cooperation on the other hand with religious-based movements or Left-Wing Baathists was rejected. In exercising control the Party, it was envisaged, would act through the Regional Command but would not equate itself with the Government. Only a third of the Regional Command would hold Government posts. Further divergences between the Party's publicly announced policies and their actual ones emerged in other fields. For example, the public aims included a laudable reform of the Civil Service and improvement in the armed forces. However, their real intention, as is evident from the unpublished plan, was to place Party members and sympathisers in all sensitive departments and to place the Security Service firmly under Party control. Likewise measures to gain control of the Army included not only the appointment of loyal Party members to the command of sensitive units and the Security and Intelligence Services but also a purge of suspect elements and crash indoctrination courses for officers and NCO's.

4. In international relations the Party programme attached particular importance to the Arab/Israel question, on which the line was uncompromising in that it rejected the idea of a political solution and negotiations leading to peace with Israel. The programme advocated support for guerrilla activity against Israel and called for the unification of the military and political efforts of the Arab States most directly concerned with the Israeli threat. As a consequence of the primary  
/importance





importance attached to the Palestine problem, the Party's policy was to include the strengthening of relations with the Communist countries and with all other states which supported the Arab cause. Another facet of this was the doctrine that Iraq's bilateral relations with other countries would depend on the latter's attitude towards the Palestine problem. Elsewhere in the Arab world Party policy was to support the "progressive" Arab régimes and to devote all possible resources to maintaining the Arab character of the Gulf. They would refrain from contact with the Regional Left Wing Baathist régime in Syria and attempt to strengthen the Right Wing Baathist organisation through the National Command.

5. Turning to economic questions, Baathist policy was to bring foreign oil companies under strict control, to strengthen the Iraq National Oil Company, to review previous agreements with the oil companies in order to ensure that Iraq attained its legitimate rights and to see that the future exploitation of the country's mineral resources, and in particular sulphur, should be undertaken by the State. Among the other policy points believed to have been approved but not published officially were a review of the agreement with ERAP, although the Party recognised that the extent to which its terms could be improved was limited by the need to maintain good relations with France. Studies were also to be initiated for the exploitation of the North Rumaila field and for the nationalisation of the Basra Petroleum Company. Great emphasis was put on the "direct exploitation" of oil and mineral resources and

/to this end



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to this end the Iraq National Oil Company was to be strengthened to accelerate the "direct exploitation" of oil and achieve the eventual nationalisation of I.P.C.

6. Further measures envisaged in the economic sphere were the collective management of industry, unification of the State Budget to include all aspects of the economy, the reform of the tax system and gradual reorganisation of the Banks to increase their specialisation. The existing partial nationalisation of the import trade was to be extended to total nationalisation and plans were to be prepared for the gradual nationalisation of the wholesale trade. On the otherhand facilities were to be offered to attract the investment of Iraq and Arab capital into the private industrial sector. Changes were also contemplated in the field of agrarian reform.

7. An examination of the way in which these policies have been executed shows that the régime's greatest failure is in their handling of internal affairs. Despite efforts they failed to make any headway in gaining the cooperation of other progressive groups. They had little or no success with the NDP, the Party which Kamil Chadirchi founded, or with the Communists although, after imprisoning Aziz al Haj, of the Central "Leadership" of the Communist Party, they obtained some fleeting agreement on cooperation. Baathist control of affairs was exercised not only through the government but also the Central Committee of the Party, and decisions of any importance at all had to be approved not merely by the Council of Ministers or the Revolutionary Command Council, but also

/the relevant

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the relevant Party committee. For some time after the Baathists' seizure of power it seemed that perhaps people's fears were misplaced and that the Baathists had learnt that a repetition of their bloodthirsty behaviour when last in power should be avoided. But there were soon reasons for disquiet. In this city of rumours, stories began to circulate of the arrest and torture not only of members and supporters of the previous government but of others accused of spying, bribery, corruption and economic offences of various kinds. Some of these stories were undoubtedly exaggerated and great circumstantial detail was produced to show how Dr. Kadim Shubbar, who subsequently telephoned his wife, had met three separate deaths. But there was enough truth in some of them to cause real concern. The régime certainly carried out their claim that they had released political prisoners, but it was largely their own supporters who were let out of gaol and the gaols were soon filled with their opponents. Lists were published of people whose property had been attached and who had been arrested on charges of spying for Israel, the United States, the CENTO powers, imperialism or any combination of these. A plot, in which Kuwait may have been implicated, to overthrow the régime was uncovered in December 1968 and this led to the arrest of the Chief of Staff, Major General Faisal al Ansari.

8. The climax of the tension was reached when in January and February a number of accused were hanged and their bodies exhibited in public in Baghdad and Basra. Although those hanged and imprisoned may have in fact been guilty - at least of some offence - the aim was without doubt to fragment,

/discredit

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discredit or terrify all potential opposition to Baathist rule. But their hopes of winning it support of certain political groupings such as the National Democratic Party and some of the Communist groups had come to nothing, probably because their intention to dominate any alliance was only too apparent. In the early summer of 1969 there were fresh waves of arrests and some of those arrested earlier were interviewed on the television, by Mohammad Said al Sahhaf, an urbane and rather sinister Arab version of Robin Day, to whom they made "confessions" of spying for the CIA. Those who appeared included the former Military Governor of Baghdad, Rashid Muslih, and it was officially suggested that Abdul Rahman Razzaz<sup>B?</sup>, who was arrested at the end of 1968 would also be subjected to a similar ordeal. The régime also failed to overcome Mulla Mustafa Barazani's deep mistrust, and, in spite of the Government's professed wish for a peaceful solution, sporadic fighting continued between the Mulla's Kurds and the Government's armed forces, which also gave backing to the Kurdish group hostile to Barazani led by Talabani. Furthermore, through another piece of clumsiness, the régime subsequently alienated the important Shia element, who were already somewhat restive following the deterioration of relations with Iran over the Shatt al Arab dispute.

9. The Baathists have been no more successful in the conduct of their relations with other Arab countries and the rest of the world. Admittedly their early rejection of a political solution to the Palestine problem has perhaps gained support in the Arab

/world

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world as a result of continued lack of progress towards a settlement, but the Arabs are no nearer to a military solution now than they were before. The Iraqis have given overt support to the Commando movement and initially favoured Al Fatah. Subsequently they decided that Al Fatah was gaining too much popularity and they founded their own Commando organisation, the Arab Liberation Front, which latterly appears to have been used more for their aims in Syria than against the Israelis. Attempts were made in Syria to change the complexion of the government there and the agreement of General Hafiz al Assad was obtained for the stationing of Iraqi troops in that country. However, Iraqi hopes of Hafiz al Assad's Right Wing gaining control were dashed by the results of the Syrian Baath Party Congress. A Sudanese delegation visited Baghdad shortly after the May revolution in Khartoum and there has been a growing resemblance between the policies of the Iraqi and the new Sudanese régimes. Contacts have also been made with the People's Republic of Southern Yemen. However, Iraq is at present no closer to the "progressive" Arab regimes in the U.A.R. and Syria, and seems to have comparatively few friends.

10. It is the willingness of the Soviet Union and of other Communist countries to support the Arab case which has won them favour with Iraq and has led to Iraq's approval of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia and the grant of diplomatic recognition to East Germany. A number of important loan, Technical Assistance and cultural agreements have in the last few months been signed with the U.S.S.R., the G.D.R. and other /Bloc countries,

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Bloc countries, and all this tended to increase Iraq's dependence on the Bloc. Even among the East Europeans, however, Iraq managed to pick a quarrel over Rumania's relations with Israel. Closer to home, relations with all her neighbours, with the possible exception of Turkey, and fellow Arabs range from the cool and suspicious to the down-right hostile, though Iraq should not bear all the blame for her difficulties with Iran. Only in her relations with the British-protected states of the Persian Gulf does Iraq appear to have had a small measure of success, and the exchange of visits between the Ruler of Abu Dhabi and the Deputy Prime Minister General Hardan al Tikriti appears at least on the surface to have been cordial. Moreover, the Iraqis have been increasingly active in the economic sphere in Bahrain and Abu Dhabi.

11. The Baathists have done better in some of the economic aspects of their Party programme. Although they have not been able to persuade the Iraq Petroleum Company that it is worthwhile trying to settle their dispute on the sort of terms the Government would offer, at least income from oil production has risen and they have obtained some satisfaction from the conclusion of the Basra Port Dues Agreement. They have, moreover, taken their plans for the direct exploitation of North Rumaila oil further by concluding an agreement with the U.S.S.R. but otherwise have not pursued an extreme oil policy. They have also made an agreement with Poland for the direct exploitation of the sulphur deposits at Mishraq. A sensible Ministry of Planning has been established under a competent Minister who is making genuine

/efforts to



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efforts to improve the country's planning mechanism. Further measures have been taken over agrarian reform; peasants have been relieved from paying sums due on their original allocations of land and landlords' rights have been curtailed still further. The economy is in fair shape and the government have been taking positive measures to improve their export performance, notably by entering into barter arrangements with supplier countries. Fears that the nationalisation of imports would be announced during the July celebrations proved to be unfounded and the Private Sector still continues to enjoy approximately the same share of the market as it did previously. Preference has, however, increasingly been given to State Trading organisations in the field of imports. The import licence allocations of the larger merchants have been reduced in accordance with the Baathist philosophy that petite bourgeoisie is respectable while grande bourgeoisie is not.

12. A feature of the political scene since July 1968 has been the constant flow of conjecture, much of it certainly well based, about internal rivalries within the leadership of the régime. It is probable that in whatever else they may have failed, the régime have succeeded for the time being in emasculating or neutralising all other centres of potential opposition. The most obvious threat to the continuation of their government lies in the rivalries within their own leadership. Even this threat, however, may not be as great as might at first appear, because while each individual or faction is suspiciously watching the moves of his colleagues there is less chance of one or other

/gaining

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gaining the advantage of surprise. Nevertheless, the situation is unstable and is made more so by the moves which are widely believed to be being made by at least two of Iraq's neighbours to bring about a government with which they could live more easily. So long as it survives however certain lines of future policy can be discerned with fair precision from the Party's programme and from the lines the régime have followed in the past year. In internal affairs, their overriding aim will be the retention of power, and to this end they will seek allies wherever they can find them eliminating those with whom they cannot work. They are at present again attempting to form a "Progressive National Front". They can probably see no way out of the Kurdish impasse and will continue with their efforts on a limited scale to contain Barazani's rebellion. Internationally, they will take the lead in advocating an extreme and inflexible policy towards Israel but, in spite of their aspirations to lead the Arabs, will not succeed to any greater extent than they have already in creating the unity without which such a policy is useless; and they will develop their relations with the Communist countries because it is from there alone that they can expect support, even though this is qualified. They will try to extend their influence in the Gulf on both state and Party levels. On the economic front, they appear still to hope for a settlement with the Iraq Petroleum Company which would bring in money they badly need in the near future and a continuing higher level of income. This would have the advantage of enabling them to maintain their balancing act

/between East

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between East and West more convincingly. Some influential members of the régime do not even regard the door closed on some arrangement with I.P.C. over North Rumaila. But the possibility that they will make some move to nationalise at least one of the constituent companies, as envisaged in the Party's programme, cannot be excluded should a settlement not be reached before long.

13. What all this amounts to is perhaps not very different from what the world has come to expect from Iraqi Governments. The difference lies however in the nature of the Baathists: they are uncompromising and determined, even ruthless, they have a Party organisation which covers the country, and they have a programme. They will not be overthrown easily and despite the efforts of their many enemies they may yet succeed in transferring an increasing proportion of their energies from the struggle to retain power towards carrying out their programme.

14. I am sending copies of this despatch to Her Majesty's Representatives in Amman, Beirut, Cairo, Kuwait, Tehran and Jedda and to the Political Resident, Persian Gulf.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,

*D. J. Harman*

CONFIDENTIAL



NEQ 1/1

20/8/69.

- 2 -

Al-Jumhuriyah: (contd.)

this first visit of the United States President to a socialist country since the World War II, was made for no legal, diplomatic or even moral reason, which entitles the Arabs and other struggling peoples of the world to assume a link between this visit and the raising of diplomatic relations with the aggressive Zionists and heirs of Nazis. It also gives the Arabs a right to review a number of concepts and even relations of all kinds.

NEWS ITEMS:

Al-Thawra:

The Higher Social Affairs Council will hold a meeting next Saturday, in the building of the Workers' Investments Establishment. The agenda will include a review of the formation of Social Affairs Councils in the administrative units formed up to the time the meeting is convened. It will also approve the final draft text governing the duties of these councils.

Al-Hurriyah:

A number of Assyrian antiquities of 7th Century B.C. have been discovered by accident at Tel Balwat, 25 kilometers east of Mosul. These antiquities include a number of cylinder seals, glass beads and other small carved articles.

Al-Nur:

A decision has been made to lift the attachment placed on the movable and immovable property belonging to the following :-

1. Abdul Qadir Ismail al Bustani
2. Hawas al Saddid
3. George Najib Kammo
4. Hasan Husain Ali
5. Ahmad Muhammad Haji
6. Ahmad Khattab al Ubaidi
7. Ismail Mahmud.

=====



## Ba'athists shuffle cabinet in Iraq

BEIRUT,  
Wednesday, UPI.  
IRAQ celebrated the anniversary of its 1968 "mini-coup" today with a series of high-level cabinet appointments and by signing a defence agreement with Syria.

At the same time a top-ranking military delegation flew to Cairo for talks as Foreign Minister Abdul Kerim Sheikhly hailed President Nasser's call for an Arab summit.

In a series of commemorative programmes Baghdad Radio recalled the ouster last July 30 of Prime Minister Abdul Razzak al-Nayef and Defence Minister Ibrahim al-Daoud. The two non-Ba'ath Party men were purged just 13 days after the coup they helped organize to overthrow President Abdul Rahman Aref. Al-Nayef was deported and al-Daoud, who was out of the country, was refused permission to return.

Their ouster helped the current Ba'athist regime to consolidate its position.

Baghdad Radio said the five-man Revolution Command Council (RCC), the highest ruling body in Iraq, decided at a meeting in Baghdad today to:

— Promote Lt. Col. Hussein Hillawi to colonel and appoint him commander of the Iraqi air force.

(Contd. on page 7 Col. 9)

## Ba'athists

(Continued from page 1)

— Dismiss Jassem Kazem al-Izzawi from his post as minister of agrarian reform and substitute Mawlood Kamel Abed.

— Disconnect the Directorate of Irrigation and appoint Taha Ibrahim al-Abdallah to head it.

— Promote RCC member and Baghdad Garrison commander Brig. Sadoun Ghaidan to lieutenant general and promote Maj. Gen. Abdul Ajbar Shanshal to lieutenant general, both as of July 14.

Changes at the Agrarian Reform Ministry indicated determination by the regime to push through its severe anti-ownership laws recently promulgated, observers believe.

The defence agreement was signed in Baghdad by Iraqi Chief-of-Staff Lt. Gen. Hammad Chebab and the Syrian ambassador to Baghdad, Bahaeddin al-Nakkar, Baghdad Radio reported.

No details have been given of the defence pact.

NEQ 1/1

AL  
KAYHAN  
31/7/69

✓



Reference.....

Mr. Acland

~~Memorandum~~  
IRAQ INTERNAL THE DARTHISTS

Mr. Hurley reports on the Dartists  
last year in office

In view of the current interest with  
the office on Iraq I recommend that  
be deleted

(a) be limited (but not hunting)

for White House / FRO distribution. I

have accordingly prepared a copy for the  
President

(b) be seen by Mr. Arthur and

Mr. Heyman. There is also a copy to Mr. Tufh.

No submission is necessary in

this case.

PMM Hinchell

I agree & have taken MED 6/9/69.  
action accordingly. AA Acland 2/9

22/9  
Mr. E. Hinchell  
You may wish  
to see this survey  
before it appears  
in print. A  
Contemporary  
File, 2 Jan. 69.

Mr. Tripp o.v. 12/9  
Mr. Wallis m. 3/9  
(Ore Dept)  
12/9



NNNN  
CCA481  
CK 1600

CCA482 LNB195  
1601 : BAZZAZ:

LONDON, SEPT. 4, REUTER - THE JEWISH OBSERVER REPORTED TODAY THAT IRAQI AUTHORITIES HAVE BEGUN THE SECRET TRIAL OF ABDUL RAHMAN AL-BAZZAZ, THE FORMER PRIME MINISTER WHO WAS ARRESTED NEARLY A YEAR AGO.

THE MAGAZINE SAID ITS MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT LEARNED ABOUT THE TRIAL THIS WEEK. IT SAID IRAQI AUTHORITIES DECIDED NOT TO TELEVISE THE TRIAL BECAUSE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE TO HIDE EVIDENCE OF TORTURE WHICH BAZZAZ HAD SUFFERED.

"THEY (THE IRAQIS) ALSO ARE AWARE OF NASSER'S SYMPATHY FOR BAZZAZ", THE MAGAZINE SAID. IT WENT ON:

"ORIGINALLY, BAZZAZ WAS SAID TO BE FACING FOUR CHARGES INCLUDING CONSPIRING WITH 'IMPERIALISM AND ZIONISM'. BUT AT HIS TRIAL, WHICH BEGAN AT THE END OF LAST WEEK, HE IS CHARGED WITH PLOTTING TO OVERTHROW THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT.

"AMONG THE 20 OR SO PEOPLE ALSO ON TRIAL WITH HIM IS THE FORMER CHIEF OF STAFF, GENERAL IBRAHIM FEISAL AL ANSARI."  
REUTER PJM/WL

*Mr. Hargreaves*

*N. Eastern Dept*

*MAAland*

(113)

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CCA170  
CK 0745

CCA171 EPA444

0746 :LEAD EXECUTIONS:

(CHANGING DATELINE)

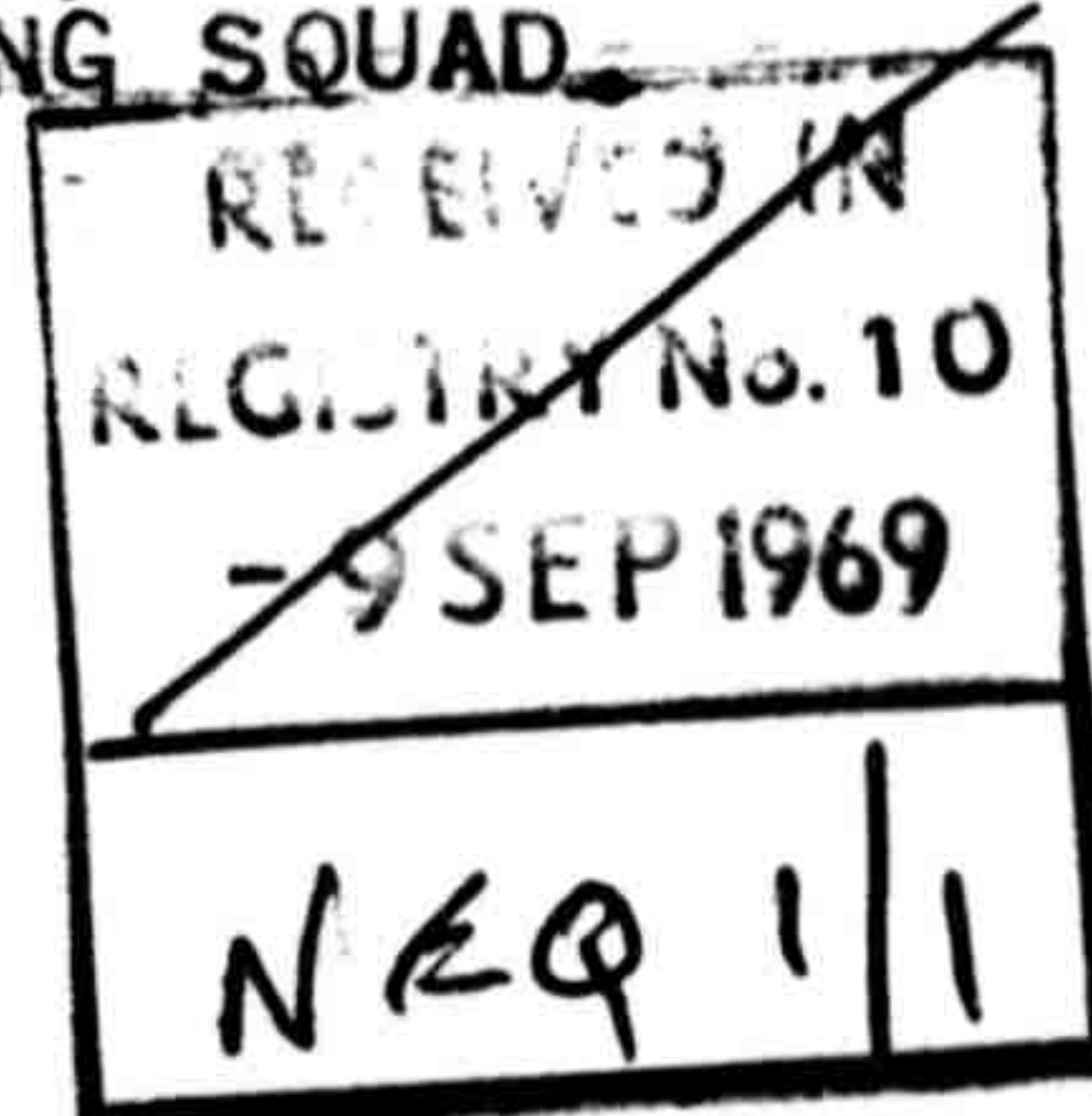
DAMASCUS, SEPT. 8, REUTER--THREE MEN CONVICTED OF BEING ISRAELI AND AMERICAN SPIES WERE EXECUTED IN BAGHDAD AT DAWN TODAY, BRINGING TO 54 THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE SHOT OR HANGED IN IRAQ ON ESPIONAGE CHARGES SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR.

THEY SYRIAN NEWS AGENCY, QUOTING OFFICIAL BAGHDAD REPORTS NAMED THE EXECUTED MEN AS KANBAR KARAM, ALMAZ ABBAS, AND PRIVATE MOHAMMED RIDHA HAYDAR.

HOW THEY WERE EXECUTED WAS NOT STATED, BUT CIVILIANS ARE USUALLY HUNG AND SERVICEMEN SHOT BY FIRING SQUAD.

MORE BRB/CM

ALL  
MOSCOW  
I THINK



114  
Mr. Hinchcliffe  
N. Easton Dept  
Mr. Adcock

then reg  
4 no res.  
M. Hinchcliffe

8/9/69

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CCA172 EPA445

0752 :LEAD EXECUTIONS 2 DAMASCUS:

THE EXECUTIONS WERE THE SIXTH SET SINCE LAST JANUARY WHEN THE FIRST HANGINGS - FOLLOWED BY THE PUBLIC DISPLAY OF THE BODIES ON GIBBETS IN BAGHDAD AND BASRA - EVOKED WORLDWIDE PROTESTS.

SOME ARAB STATES, ALSO CONDEMNED THE BAATHIST GOVERNMENT IN BAGHDAD, WHICH PURSUES POLICIES OF MILITANT ANTI-IMPERIALISM AND ANTI-ZIONISM ABROAD AND OF RADICAL SOCIALISM AT HOME, REJECTED ALL THE CRITICISM.

BUT WHILE MAINTAINING ITS RIGHT TO HANG ALL CONVICTED SPIES AS A WARNING TO OTHER ENEMIES OF THE STATE, IT NEVER REPEATED ITS ACTION IN PUBLICLY DISPLAYING THE BODIES OF THE DEAD.

TO JUDGE BY THE NAMES, ALL THREE OF THE MEN EXECUTED THIS MORNING WERE MOSLEMS.

THERE HAS BEEN NO REPORT OF THEIR TRIAL, NOR WERE THEIR NAMES AMONG THE LAST GROUP OF 12 ALLEGED SPIES WHOSE ARREST HAD BEEN REPORTED BY BAGHDAD.

THESE 12 - WHO INCLUDED NINE CHRISTIANS, TWO JEWS, AND A MOSLEM - WERE REPORTED LAST MONTH TO HAVE BEEN SENT FOR TRIAL BEFORE THE REVOLUTIONARY COURT.

MORE BRB/CM

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CCA173 EPA446

0755 :LEAD EXECUTIONS 3 DAMASCUS:

THERE ARE MANY OTHER PEOPLE IN IRAQI PRISONS AWAITING TRIAL ON CHARGES OF SPYING OR OF PLOTTING AGAINST THE STATE, MOST PROMINENT OF THEM IS ABDUL RAHMAN AL BAZZAZ, THE ONLY CIVILIAN TO HAVE SERVED AS PRIME MINISTER OF REPUBLICAN IRAQ.

THE ARRESTS WERE ACCOMPANIED BY SPECTACULAR TELEVISION CONFESSIONS BY ALLEGED AGENTS WHO IMPLICATED MANY PROMINENT FIGURES OF FORMER REPUBLICAN REGIMES, INCLUDING EVEN THE LATE PRESIDENT ABDEL SALAM AREF, IN SPY NETWORKS RUN BY THE U.S. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (C.I.A.) IN COLLABORATION WITH ISRAEL AND IRAN.

(NO PICKUP).

REUTER BRB/CM



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